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THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL 55 COE DRIVE DURHAM, NH 03824 VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1

Wednesday, October 28, 2009



SMELLS
LIKE TEEN
SPIRIT



By Sara Usher

It was like a scene out of animal planet as the seniors chased their prey. Though the seniors would not dare harm an innocent freshman, the 9th graders still ran for shelter as fast as their legs could carry them without tripping over one another. Screams and shouts rocked the courtyard as the faculty watched with ominous grins. Let the games begin.

The usual small fights broke out and underclassmen were tagged but overall it was a rather quiet spirit week at Oyster River.

Although most believe that the school behaved well overall, rumors have been swirling around the school about a new kind of spirit week for next year. A spirit week that no longer rips classes apart but pulls the entire school together in unity. It has been suggested to have a spirit week in which students from different grades are mixed up to decrease the amount of aggression between classes.

Hallie Miller, a junior at Oyster River said “I thought spirit week truly shows how all of the grades can come together and work as one team for the same purpose; it’s the one day where we are all brought together despite our differences”. Mr. Zottoli, head of the student senate at Oyster River High School, agreed “We have good class unity but bad school unity”. So it is agreed that classes are brought together during spirit week at Oyster River High School but that may in fact be the problem.

Zottoli commented “I think the senate did a really good job organizing spirit week. The field day itself from a kid’s point of view was phenomenal. The faculty is seeing it as an eventual problem down the road”. Ms. Sullivan also shares this feeling with Zottoli “I feel like in general the kids are so great but during spirit week people feel they have permission to treat others disrespectfully” said Sullivan.

Spirit Continued on Page 2...

NO MORE NIPPLES



By Erik Frid

“I think we should all go topless like we did in the 1800s.”

Justin Petrovitsis, a junior at Oyster River High School, wasn’t talking about streaking through the cafeteria during lunch; he was talking about Don Maynard’s new policy for athletes at ORHS. There’s a new rule at the high school; all student athletes (male and female) must be wearing a shirt at all times while at the school - no exceptions. Maynard, the Athletic Director at ORHS, views this rule as keeping things consistent. “This is my rule, not the coaches,” stated Maynard. “We don’t let guys run around without shirts on just like we don’t let girls run around with sports bras. I don’t think it is appropriate.”

Students must also be wearing shirts inside the gym and “Shirts versus Skins” games are not allowed on school grounds. “I don’t think it’s unreasonable,” said Maynard. There are several reasons for the introduction of the new covered-chest policy at the high school. First off, there is an issue of whether or not allowing students to take their shirts off would make anybody uncomfortable.

“It’s not like we’re showing anything that we shouldn’t be,” explained ORHS sophomore, Izzy Gorham. “It’s just

our stomachs.” Gorham plays on the Varsity soccer, JV basketball and Varsity tennis teams for the high school.

“What’s wrong with wearing no shirts during practice?” questioned Varsity basketball player, Adam Goodwin. “You’re not exposing anything that people have never seen.” The results of an anonymous survey showed that the vast majority of ORHS students agree with Gorham and Goodwin. Un-surprisingly, the surveyed males at ORHS voted unanimously that girls shouldn’t have to wear shirts and should be free to roam in sports bras. 89% of the total surveyed students at ORHS think that girls should have the option to take their shirts off and an overwhelming 97% of them believe that guys should have the same choice.

“Whether they’d like to admit it or not,” argued Maynard. “I know there are some kids out there who wouldn’t like to be practicing without their shirts on.”

Although more females were opposed to the idea of shirtless students, some seemed very excited at the idea. Melissa Halliwell, a junior at ORHS represented a common belief among the females, “I think they need to make a rule so that boys’ Varsity in every sport doesn’t need to wear a shirt,” jokingly said Halliwell, an indoor and outdoor track runner.

The administration and teachers, however, disagree. “That’s just a little more of you guys than I want to see,” explained Principal Laura Rogers.

“I think it is totally inappropriate that you should be taking your shirts off or wearing just sports bras,” declared Rob Quaglieri, the ORHS health teacher, regarding his feelings about the new policy.

“I don’t think it’s unreasonable to expect that [students] wear clothes in school,” said John Morin, Physical Education teacher, echoing Maynard’s words.

Another reason that the rule was created was so that athletes would never feel pressured to take their shirts off if they did not want to. “It would definitely be around, but I just don’t think it’s a serious issue,” explained junior, Kyle Scarano. He went on to say that any pressure would just be players joking around with each other.

Joking or not, some believe that this unnecessary peer-pressure is a serious matter. Dave Nichols, an ORHS math teacher, remembers an incident that happened under his leadership as former ORHS Athletic Director. “The boys’ soccer team was playing a ‘Shirts versus Skins’ game on the soccer field,” explained Nichols, “and when the girls’ field hockey team looked over and saw, some of the girls decided to make their practice a ‘Shirts vs. Sports Bras’ game.” Nichols received several phone calls the next day from parents whose daughters had felt pressured to take their shirts off for the game against their will.

Nipples Continued on Page 2...

Articles Continued from Front Page...

Smells Like Teen Spirit



By Sara Usher

The types of change are being considered “It’s been thought of that there could be four teams in alphabetical order but I am not saying there is a change. The seniors will be upset and I respect the voice of those kids” said Zottoli. When asked what is needed to change Sullivan replied “More rules and more clarity for next year”.

So there are lots of options to change next year’s spirit week. There is the idea of splitting of students into four groups that would be divided alphabetically. Another option to be explored is the suggestion of uniting as a school against a rival school. Mixed signals however are going around. There was the ice cream party offered to the seniors for good behavior which makes students like Rossi and Miller think that they and their peers have behaved well. However faculty disagrees regarding the obvious problems that occurred during the week. One thing is for sure, something will be changing next year for spirit week so we’ll just have to wait and see.



NO MORE NIPPLES



Ben Belanger

A third part of the debate is the fact that athletes are always representing our school, and some believe that running around shirtless is just not a positive representation of our school.

“I don’t think anyone other than Maynard cares,” said a clearly annoyed, anonymous student.

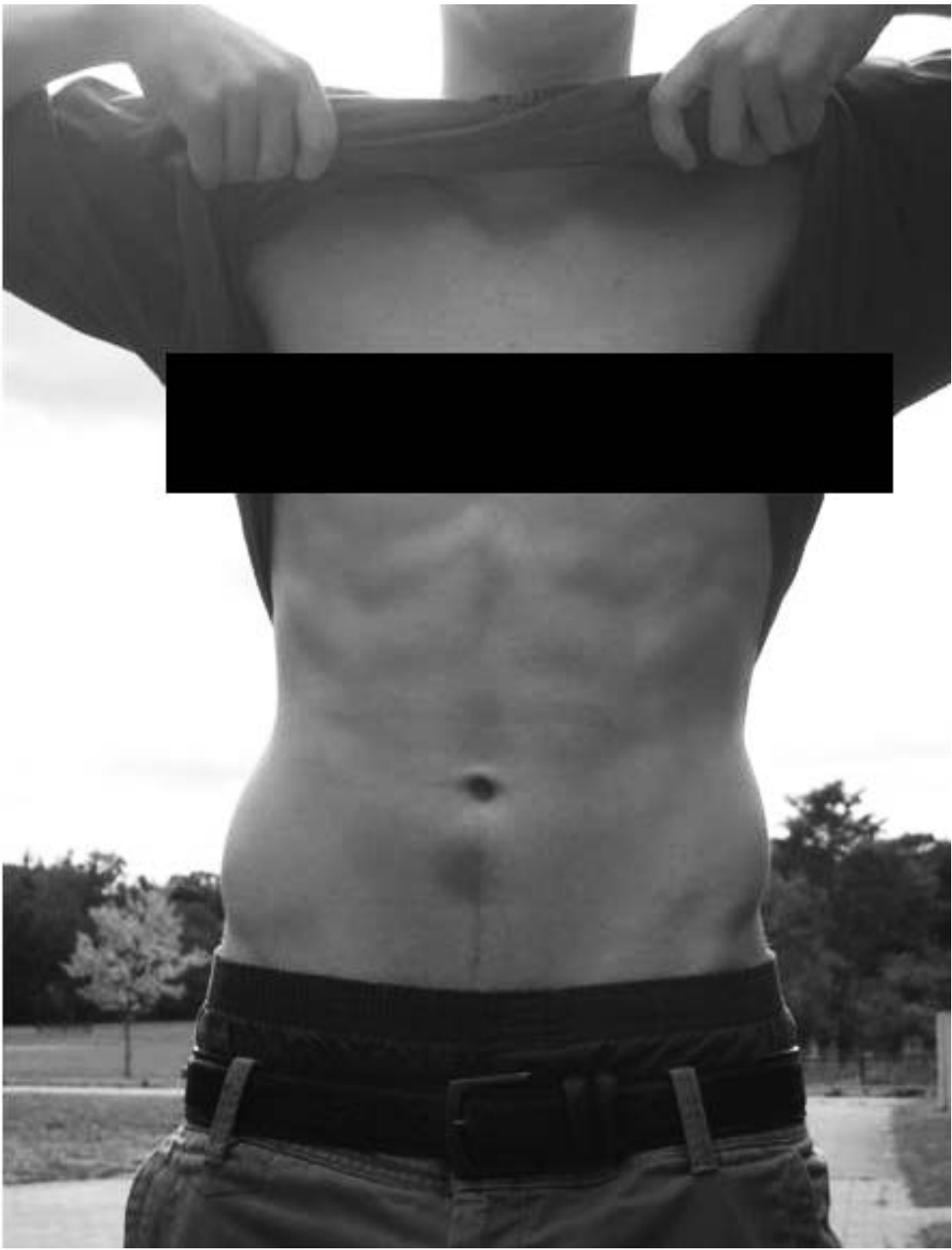
“People go to the beach all the time and see people dressed in far less than we are,” protested track and cross-country runner, GubbyNoronha. “...that isn’t a valid issue at all.”

“You aren’t at the beach,” argued Quaglieri. “You are in a school organization. You are representing the school.”

The track and cross-country teams seemed to be the most opposed to the new rule. This could possibly be because out of all teams, these two probably have the most to lose from the new policy. Noronha explained that some runners complain that shirts give them uncomfortable chafing and after the miles of running that they do during practices they can sometimes overheat.

Nichols has found what he believes to be an easy solution for the runners. “They make running shirts which are much more light weight and don’t hold as much heat,” explained Nichols. The problem is that these types of shirts average around \$50 to buy and according to cross-country runners, would not completely eliminate the issues that they have.

Principal Rogers, the mother of a track-runner, also believes



Sophomore Liam Grenier protests Maynard’s policy

that since it is an NHIAA rule that runners must wear shirts during competition, it shouldn’t be an issue to expect them to wear them during practices as well. Although runners must wear shirts in competition, practice and real races don’t have equal amounts of running. “At a race, everyone does 6 miles,” said Noronha “At practice I sometimes go 12-13.” Since at practices, some runners do double the amount of running as they do in competition, this presumably makes them double as likely to overheat or become uncomfortable due to their shirt chafing against their skin. Many athletes hope that someday they will be free to shed those unwanted shirts, but for as long as it is up to Don Maynard, there will be no more nipples at Oyster River High School.

“I don’t think it’s unreasonable to expect [students] to wear clothes in school,” said John Morin.

QUIZBOWL?

What is Quizbowl? “Honestly, I have no clue,” said Freshman Anthony Shea. We have all heard the announcements about the Oyster River High School Quizbowl and Granite State Challenge teams, but very few students actually know the answer to that question.

According to both a Quizbowl and Granite State Challenge team-member, Alexe Taylor, the concept of the teams is quite simple. Both teams compete in either elimination-based rounds or meets where they get together with other schools across the state and compete in their knowledge of trivia. “This is basically random academic knowledge across all subjects,” explained Taylor, a Senior at ORHS.



By Ben Belanger

The Granite State Challenge is a game-type show on NH Public Television with 32 total teams competing. The Oyster River team, consisting of Seniors Alexe Taylor and Gordon Fenn and Juniors Gubby Noronha, Ryan Horton, and Hannah Nelson, won its first round in a very close, high scoring match against a tough team from Winnisquam. The team then advanced to the second round on October 15, beating Newt High School with a score of about 250-160. “We pretty much dominated,” said Junior GSC team member, Gubby Noronha describing the victory. The team XXXXXXXXXXXX

John Monahan, ORHS English teacher, currently serves as advisor for both teams. Up until she became ill, former French Teacher Sue Smith held the positions. “Mrs Smith was an amazing advisor,” remembered Taylor. “She put her absolute heart and soul into the Granite State Challenge and Quizbowl Programs... she was absolutely the best coach I’ve ever had, and the team misses her badly.” It is difficult to take over a position that was held by such a beloved and fondly-remembered coach such as Smith, but Monahan “has made the adjustment” and is filling the gap well, according to Taylor.

Quizbowl is set to start second semester and the team has some tough shoes to fill as last year’s team placed third in the state and sent Senior Captain Adam Mistretta to Florida for Nationals. Let’s hope for another strong finish by both teams this year.



Elle est partie mais nous n'allons jamais l'oublier. For you who understand this phrase have had the exceptional pleasure of learning under or meeting one of Oyster River High School's most enthusiastic teachers, Madame Smith. Words can't describe what she meant to ORHS and its students and faculty. Some will say she had a huge impact on their lives. Whatever the circumstance she has left her mark on the school for generations to come.



Susan C. Smith-Shapiro was born February 19, 1947 in Manchester. She lived most of her childhood in Derry and attended Pinkerton academy. She then went on to get her bachelor's in French at Bates College and then her masters from the University of Minnesota. Susan was a brilliant student, receiving various awards and graduating as valedictorian for both high school and college. She also represented New Hampshire as a presidential scholar.

What Madame Smith brought to the table everyday for 37 years while working at ORHS, no one could replace. "I could never fill those shoes," said Barbra Milliken. She dedicated herself to the foreign language department every day, for her it wasn't a job, it was a lifestyle. As the longest running teacher in the department, she was the driving force behind the French club and the French school trips. One of her greatest pleasures was bringing her students to different places around the world, whether it is Quebec, France, or some other country. If the group didn't have enough money to do some certain activity she would personally finance the activity with her own funds. "I would define her as a very generous person," said Joan Schaeffer. She was generous and thoughtful in every aspect of her life especially when dealing with her students. "She would always spend extra time on something if you needed it and would let you retake tests," said Sarah Trombley, an ORHS graduate. Even during her fight against cancer she would bring in

Je Me Souviens



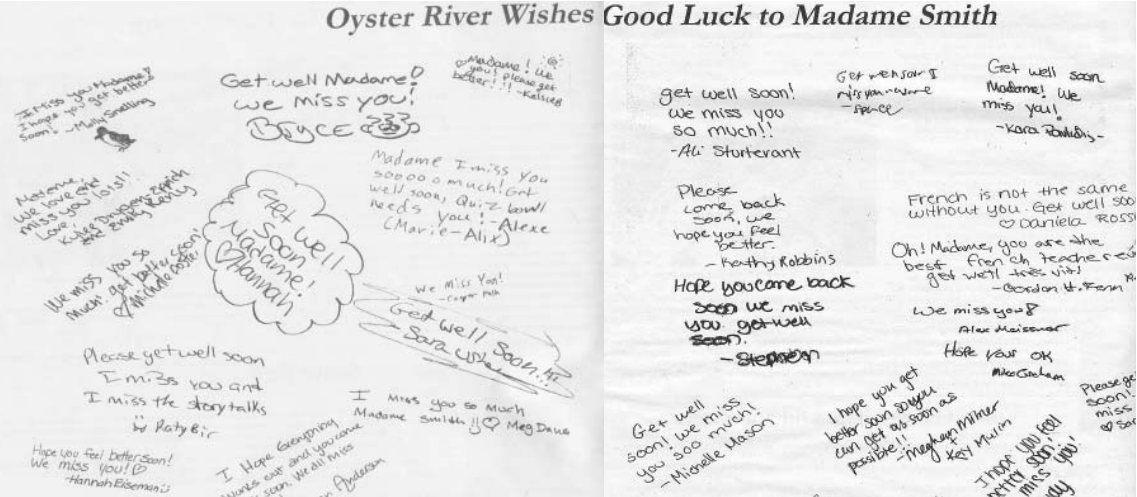
baskets filled with assortments of goodies for her students.

Her love not only lied with her students but also in her colleagues. With her partner in crime, Joan Schaeffer, the two developed the language department to what it is today. The two took many trips together to Spain and also Mexico. "This one time we went to Mexico Madame Smith didn't want to fly so while I flew she drove 70 hours and met me down there," said Schaeffer. She was the energizing bunny of the foreign language department always full of energy and ready to do the next thing.

Susan lived a life of faith and spirituality. She was a member of the Londonderry United Methodist Church

and the First Parish Church Congregational in Dover giving up her time to those in need. She had a lifelong love for nature and experiencing it as much as she could through walks on the beach or hikes in the mountains.

In 2007 Susan was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which she courageously fought for two and a half years. During her last week's she stayed at the Hyder Family Hospice House in Dover, NH. During her time in the hospice house she decided to marry her lifelong best friend and companion, Neil Shapiro. Thursday July 30, 2009 Susan C. Smith-Shapiro left this world. But, she will never leave the hearts and minds of her students, her family, and her friends.



"She was so good at making people smile, she could always make someone happy. I don't think I ever saw her get angry at someone" -Alex Meissner

"She would give great hints during quizzes. One time she gave us a quiz and the word was outside and she said da horse is outside which the french word for outside sounds like da horse". -Judy Kucera

"We would always play trivial games and she would get so excited adn start cheering really loud." -Sarah Trombley

Dances of Homecoming's Past: Has behavior at school dances improved from past years?



By Erik Frid

For many seniors at Oyster River High School they can remember the crazy school dances freshman and sophomore year. They can remember their upperclassmen coming into dances practically throwing up on themselves as Oyster River Principal Laura Rogers recounted. Principal Rogers and teacher chaperones agree that behavior at school dances has gotten better from the past years. "I thought this year went very smoothly," expressed Oyster River Social Studies Teacher and dance chaperone of 10 years, Brian Zottoli. "Over the past two years," he continued, "students have been much more responsible coming to dances. I think that you still have issues, but they have been reduced quite a bit." Zottoli emphasizes that he doesn't see big difference between last year and this year but, there is a big difference between the past two years and the year before that. So what is different about more recent dances from the dances of years past?

One difference about this year's Homecoming from past dances is that there wasn't permanent cop at the dance. Usually the school posts a bulletin at the Durham Police Station asking for an officer to work overtime. However, no one picked it up and the school could only get a cop to stop in periodically. According to Principal Rogers this had no effect, "We didn't have a police officer...and there was no problem." She continued to say that having a police officer at the dance is not crucial to making sure students behave themselves. It's more critical to make sure that there are chaperones and administrators at the dance.

Principal Rogers thinks that the reason why the dances in the past two years have been better is because, "[students] care more and they're more responsible with what they do outside of school."

Zottoli took a different approach as to why students have behaved better in recent years, "I think part of this change has to do with consistency. If you are caught there are steep punishments...as soon as [the chaperones or administrators] catch [someone] everyone knows what happens. This changes behavior."

However, this years Homecoming did have its issues. "We caught numerous students who had consumed alcohol before coming into the dance." Senior Paraj Patel claimed that he witnessed students who were intoxicated, "Some people were different than they normally are."

Ultimately all High School dances will have their problems. Furthermore according to Principal Rogers said that issues at school dances don't compare to issues at Coffee Houses and the Battle of the Bands. At these events students from other schools go and it makes an atmosphere where things can more easily get out of hand.

While the school year has only just begun, it is hard to predict how students will behave at future dances. According to Principal Rogers the Homecoming Dance and the Halloween dance are the worst when it comes to behavior. We'll just have to see on Friday, October 30th, the date of the Halloween Dance.



Students waiting in line to get into the 2009 Homecoming Dance. Photo taken by Noah Nelson



New Faces at Oyster River High School...



By Alex Buck

What famous or significant person has ever come out of Minnetonka, Minnesota? Mark Lawrence, the new chemistry teacher at ORHS? Once he had escaped the town of Minnetonka Lawrence went to UNH majoring in molecular development biology and then got his masters in educations. He has worked at an assortment of ORHS rival schools, Nobel High, Dover, and Bow. With this colorful past his warm welcome as ORHS’s new chemistry teacher might be put on a hold.

What are your hobbies?

Hockey, lacrosse, Frisbee, playing guitar and drums.

What is your perfect Saturday afternoon?

Finishing up a hike, chillen with friends, BBQ, Skiing

If you could date any celebrity who would it be?

No one I’m married

What is your favorite movie?

Princess Bride

What is your biggest fear?

Tripping on stage in front of everyone.

What superpower would you want?

Laser beams for eyes.

How do you like your steak?

Medium rare.

What kind of car do you drive?

Nissan Ultima.

Furthest you have traveled?

South Korea

Boxers or briefs?

Yes

Mexican or Chinese food?

Mexican

Would you rather have no feet or no hands?

No feet.

Would you rather be stung by 10 wasps of shot in the leg?

Stung by the wasps

Do you support the second amendment?

Yes

Communism or capitalism?

Neither really works.

Blond or Brunette?

Pass

McDonalds or Burger King?

McDonalds



Kathy Pearce

This year Wally has a new librarian to compete with and her name is Kathy Pearce. She was born in the small town of Melvinville, New Hampshire and lived most of her childhood in Portsmouth. She majored in journalism at UNH but later decided it wasn’t her cup of tea. She then got her masters at UNH to be an English teacher. She worked at Kennet Middle School as and English teacher and then at Portsmouth Middle School. After 8 years of teaching English at Portsmouth she became the librarian for another 5 years.

Like the other librarian at the High School, Kathy Pearce is a very unique person. She is the bass drummer for the Leftist Marching Band, a street band consisting of activists and people of peace. She also competes with her dog in dog agility competitions.

So far she has been very impressed by the ORHS students. “They are very polite and friendly,” said Pearce. Pearce plans to make a more interactive and effective website for the library and also update the already large collection of books the ORHS library contains.



What is your perfect Saturday afternoon?

Having no plans and doing whatever, like reading or going to the beach.

If you could date any celebrity who would it be and why?

I wouldn’t want to.

Favorite movie?

Best in Show

What superpower would you choose?

To be able to double the amount of hours in a day.

How do you like your steak?

I’m a vegetarian so, walking and breathing.

What car do you drive?

Volkswagen Cabrio convertible

New Teacher: Mr. Derr

From the hallowed grounds of a North Carolina boarding school to the hallways of Oyster River High School, Mr. Derr has seen a range of education styles. An original New Englander who grew up in Newington, CT and went to Bowdoin College Mr. Derr likes to spend his winters skiing and he enjoys a good board game from time to time. For him Oyster River’s class competition style of spirit week is new to him contrary to what boarding schools he taught at did.



By Erik Frid

What other schools have you worked at, if any?

Student taught in Freeport, Maine and worked at boarding schools in both North Carolina and Massachusetts.

What is your prefect Saturday afternoon?

It snowed really hard on Friday night and he’s skiing.

How did this year’s spirit week go in comparison to other places you have worked?

Other schools don’t have a whole spirit week, just one day. At the boarding school’s he taught at students competed between dorms instead of between classes.

If you could date any celebrity, who and why?

“I missed that opportunity. I didn’t think [that] it was going to happen so I settled down.”

Hobbies and interests out of school?

Skiing, soccer, and board games; especially chess and scrabble.

Favorite movie?

Boondock Saints

What is your biggest fear?

Dying young.

What superpower would you choose and why?

Being able to see into the past and future, “I don’t like surprises so I would see where I am 20 years into the future.”

How do you like your steak?

Medium.

Any interesting jobs?

Teaching at the boarding school in North Carolina—it was a new place in the country to live and it was an all boy school.

What kind of car do you drive?

2005 Subaru Wagon

Furthest you have traveled?

Either Oregon or when he went on a Caribbean cruise.

Mexican or Chinese food?

Chinese

Would you rather have no feet or no hands and why?

No feet, “I think I can get some decent

prosthetics to stand up.”

Would you rather be stung 10 wasps or shot in the leg?

Shot in the leg with a squirt gun.

Do you support the second amendment?

“I’ll plead the 5th.”

Communism or capitalism?

Capitalism.

Blonde or brunette?

Brunette.

McDonalds or Burger King?

Burger king, specifically the Rodeo cheeseburger.

Where did you grow up?

Newington, CT

What do you like most about teaching?

When kids say, “Oh I get it now.”

What classes do you teach?

Intro to algebra, Geometry, Algebra I, and Intro to Algebra and Geometry.

What was you favorite class when you were in high school?

Math.

What is your favorite class to teach?

Algebra I.

What do you like about OR?

At other schools he taught at they ran on a block schedule therefore, he taught fewer classes than he is teaching at Oyster River. By teaching more classes he is able to connect with more students than before.

What college did you go to?

Bowdoin: majored in math and minored in education.



LOCKDOWN AT ORHS



Ben Belanger

After your team suffers a humiliating loss, you take the bus back to the school. As you think “could this day possibly get any worse?” – you remember that you forgot to move your car from the senior parking lot and the custodian locks the gate at 3:30. Not only do you have to wait for your mom to pick you up, but since it’s Friday, you’ll have to go all weekend without a car.

This scenario may become a common occurrence at Oyster River High School this school year – upon returning from summer vacation, students were greeted with a nice, shiny new gate placed at the entrance to the senior parking lot. After a trashcan-fire in the lot last year ended up spreading through the surrounding woods, almost to nearby houses, the administration decided that they had had enough and access to the lot needed to be limited.

Principal Rogers initially proposed the idea to put the gate in, but says it was a mutual decision to go through with it between her, the facilities department and other administrators. According to Mrs. Rogers, the gates were put in because of “the vandalism and the small fire that happened last year.” The gate is now being closed and locked at 9:00 PM or as soon as the last car leaves.

Most ORHS students, such as senior Loren Couse, seem to be fine with the current policy. “I think it’s a good idea,” explained Couse “People coming here at night is sketchy to begin with.” Fellow senior Zach Bangrazi, who was sitting near Couse also agreed, saying that it is a good idea to prevent people from hanging out in the lot at night.

The issue with the gates is not their presence; it is the new policy that will be initiated by the custodians soon – to lock the gates at 3:30, regardless of whether or not all cars are out.

“If you have a sports commitment, you have to move your car before you go,” complains senior Kristen Silverman. This is a common concern amongst OR seniors – nobody wants to get their car locked in the parking lot overnight. “I don’t think it’s really that necessary,” says Silverman.

Although the gate does present some unwanted annoyances, according to Principal Rogers, it is working. Between the 06-07 school year and 07-08, over \$5800 in damages was attributed to vandalism in the upper senior lot. So far this year, because of the new gate and cameras, there have been no incidents in the lot.

This protection does not come without a cost, though. The new gate cost the district \$1200, a price that some ORHS students feel was just wasted cash. “If someone wants to get in the lot, a gate is not going to stop them,” said Senior Victoria Hanson. Nearby, Senior Amy Perry



Sign Posted at the Entrance to the Senior Parking Lot

What’s up with the Locks on the Third Floor Lockers?

If you’re like me, you’ve probably been wondering why there are locks on all of the third floor lockers. Over the summer, the administration made the decision to put locks on all of these lockers, a project that cost less than \$500. The decision was made after the administration noticed numerous freshmen that did not have time to go up to their lockers on the third floor without being late to class and were forced to carry their books and binders too far.



echoed Hanson’s words, “it’s a short gate... what’s it going to stop?”

“They had good intentions,” explained Hanson, “but it was a bad investment.”

Some students view the new gate as unfair and unnecessary, but the truth, according to Principal Rogers, is that it wouldn’t have had to been put in if it weren’t for the student’s own actions. “Last year we received a lot of phone calls last year from the police, neighbors,” explained Mrs. Rogers, “...even the fire department because of the fire, and some from parents about vandalism to vehicles. People should expect that they can leave their car in the parking lot and when they come back it won’t be vandalized.”

The true value of the gate has yet to be seen, and although it may cause some frustration, only time will tell whether or not its benefits outweigh its faults.

Q&A WITH MR. MASI

Ben Belanger

Surfing and Shark Diving aren’t generally things that will come to mind when you think of a high school Science Teacher, but Michael Masi, one of the new additions to the ORHS Science Department doesn’t fit the typical view of a science teacher. Masi grew up and still lives in York, Maine and attended Bates College. He teaches Physical Science and Astronomy at the high school and so far appreciates the freedom that both students and teachers have.



Q: What other schools have you worked at, if any?
A: I did my internships at York High School and York Middle School

Q: What is your perfect Saturday afternoon?
A: Hiking with my dog

Q: How did this year’s spirit week go in comparison to other places you have worked?
A: It was very competitive... and at times scary.

Q: Hobbies and interests out of school?
A: Anything one can do in and around the ocean. Fishing, kayaking, surfing, scuba diving... stuff like that.

Q: Favorite movie?
A: I’d have to put *The Shawshank Redemption* up there. It’s just an epic movie.

Q: What is your biggest fear?
A: Drowning. I really don’t want to do that.

Q: What superpower would you choose and why?
A: Teleport, I hate traffic and commuting.

Q: How do you like your steak?
A: Medium-rare

Q: First and any interesting jobs?
A: I was Dive Master on a boat that did shark diving with Great White Sharks.

Q: What kind of car do you drive?
A: Volkswagen Jetta

Q: Furthest you have travelled?
A: Australia and New Zealand

Q: Mexican or Chinese food?
A: Good Mexican. I love a nice burrito.

Q: Would you rather have no feet or no hands and why?
A: No hands – I’m a soccer player.

Q: Would you rather be stung by 10 wasps or shot in the leg?
A: Stung by 10 wasps. I’m not allergic

Q: Do you support the second amendment?
A: Yes and no. Hunting: great. AK-47: bad.

Q: Blond/brunette?
A: Blond

Q: McDonalds or burger king?
A: McDonalds

They can see you...



By Erik Frid

You walk to class—it sees you. You play hacky sack with your friends in the senior core—it sees you. You shuffle off to the bathroom - it sees you. “It’s like we’re controlled by the cameras,” said Oyster River Senior Will Dube. This year at Oyster River High School kicked off like usual: Spirit Week, new faces, missing faces and for the students of Mr. Monahan the annual tragic telling of how his dog died. All seemed normal except for one fact: it was all recorded on camera. This summer 28 security cameras were installed in the High School. They were paid for by a \$12,000 grant from the Safe Schools Act and tax payers money. Inevitably the question is: have the cameras actually worked? Oyster River students are split on their view of whether or not the cameras have been or will be effective. “I think it’s a

waste of money and they’re not going to be effective,” expressed Junior Kyle Scarano. Oyster River Senior Allan Coq couldn’t disagree more, “[They will be] extremely effective. There’s nothing better to catch culprits than hard cold visual footage.”

Oyster River Principal, Laura Rogers who claims that she only spends 5 minutes a day looking at camera footage explained that the cameras have been very useful. With the security cameras installed she is able to find out what happed with visual evidence instead of by word of mouth. However, Principal Rogers said that she will always talk to students before making a conclusion, “I would never make a decision based on cameras.” She continued to say that while video shows what happened she still needs to find out the cause; and that’s where talking to other students comes in. An example of Principal Rogers talking to students to discover cause and using the cameras to find out the effect involved a fight at first lunch involving two freshmen in the cafeteria.

Principal Rogers was able to see the details of the fight in a choppy video sequence whereas before in order to find out the particulars of the fight she would have had to go by the word of the teachers and the students that witnessed the fight. However, she interviewed students to determine who the agitator of the fight was. With all this knowledge Principal Rogers is able to serve out more just punishments. In addition, she says that students are more likely to tell the truth with the cameras there.

In the case a situation is severe enough like a school shooting for instance, the Durham Police Station has access to all the footage. This would be useful for instances in which someone was in the building who shouldn’t have access. Principal Rogers brings up an example from last year when someone who appeared to be “intoxicated” walked through the school. The man got away and it left the Durham Police Department without a lead. However, with the security cameras at all the entrances according to Principal Rogers this won’t happen again.

However, the cameras don’t always catch the culprit. For example there was a freshman girl whose belongings were moved to another locker. The girl unfortunately did not know the time period in which her property was moved because it was on field day. Because of the vague time period of the infraction Principal Rogers was not able to catch whoever moved the freshman’s belongings. She explained that it would be unreasonable to spend an hour watching camera footage.

In addition the cameras don’t cover every location in the high school. One of the first things Oyster River Students noticed about the cameras was that of the 28 that have been installed so far there are cameras in the Senior Core but not the Junior Core. Oyster River Senior Michelle Hobbs believes that the administration is being prejudiced to the Senior Class, “I think [that] it’s pretty ridiculous that the administration only feels the seniors vandalize and steal...juniors, sophomores and even freshman should all be considered...”

Hobbs’ fellow senior Conrad Nawrocki also believes that the administration is trying to keep an extra eye on seniors but he believes that it’s fair. “Since only seniors are allowed to be in the core all the time, I think it makes sense,” he hypothesized.

Hobbs also explained that she felt that the administration was basing this year’s class off of last year’s class. However, Oyster River High School Principal Laura Rogers’s opinion favors Hobbs. “I think the senior class this year is different in regards to the Class of 2009,” said Principal Rogers. She went on to say that the Class of 2010 is more peaceful and that she doesn’t think that the cameras can be attributed to the peacefulness, but it has been better this year.

Principal Rogers’s explanation as to why cameras were installed in the Senior Core but not the Junior Core does not involve the senior class at all. She said that in order to deal with theft from the school (computers, projectors, DVD players, etc) the security grid must be built from the first floor up because the first floor is the place of entrance and exit. Principal Rogers said that the Junior Core is the next place to receive camera installations along with some locations outside.

Having more cameras outside will most likely reduce vandalism like in the instance last summer when someone threw cinderblocks through the glass doors outside of the gym. Principal Rogers explained that vandalism costs a lot. However, she is unsure if in the end deterring vandalism will help make the cameras pay for themselves. Principal Rogers believes that the cameras will be paid back for the individuals whose personal items were vandalized or stolen like a car or ipod. “Those things don’t have a dollar value on them,” said Principal Rogers.

Nevertheless, some students still believe that the cameras aren’t justifiable. Many feel that they’re a violation of privacy. “I think our privacy is violated,” explained Sophomore Zach Ahlgrin, “there are certain things I would do but I don’t feel comfortable doing them with



The security camera overlooking the senior core.

cameras there.” Nawrocki shared Ahlgrin’s belief, “I hate being watched more than anything.” However, many students don’t mind the cameras at all. This could be attributed to the increase of cameras and media in the last decade. As District Superintendent Howard Colter stated, “It is the case today that cameras are becoming part of the world culture.” He continued to explain that the University of New Hampshire has cameras at many of its buildings and on Main Street.

UNH Police Deputy Chief Paul Dean said in a statement, “UNH deploys cameras in certain areas. We have solved many crimes with the assistance of cameras.” Oyster River

students going to UNH won’t be able to get away from security cameras. In addition many other high schools use security cameras, including Dover High School Portsmouth High School, Nashua North, Winnacunnet High School and Keene High School to name a few.

Like many changes people go through in life—the fear or uneasiness of having cameras watching Oyster River Students every move will probably pass over. However, school is a second home and for many students they will never adjust to the idea. So is Oyster River turning into George Orwell’s science fiction novel: 1984? It really all depends on how much you trust “Big Brother.”



The security camera’s view during second lunch.

Field Trippin’

The financial crisis that swept across the country has claimed many victims—including field trips. Recently the Oyster River School District created a rule that restricts the total amount a single student can pay in regards to field trips. With this new policy a student can only be required to pay a maximum of \$10 for a field trip and a family can only be required to pay \$30 on field trips for an entire year.



By Erik Frid

Teachers across the district received an email explaining the new rule, which cited that the reason for the rule change involved the hard times families are going through due to the recession. “Families are stretched out as it is,” said Oyster River Vice Principal Sarah Wotton. She explained that if a student goes on a say five field trips in a school year and each cost \$30, it can add up. Spanish teacher and Oyster River Parent Mary Beaton thinks that if parents have issues with being able to come up with enough money to afford sending their children on a field trip then they should ask for help.

However, Oyster River Principal Laura Rogers expressed a problem with Beaton’s idea, “Families don’t want to broadcast that they’re going through a hard time.” Principal Rogers who strongly opposes the new policy says that while the rule may work with elementary and middle school students and their families, it doesn’t really work for high school students. She said that the makeup of field trips in elementary and middle school are very different from high school field trips. When field trips are organized in elementary and middle school they usually involve an entire grade—unlike in high school where field trips are organized

by classes and subject. It is this fact that makes elementary and middle school students more sensitive about missing a field trip due to his/her family going through financial troubles. However, in high school missing a field trip is generally not as big of an issue for the student. In addition, high school students are more financially independent and more financially understanding. “High school students are more used to making choices,” said Principal Rogers.

Principal Rogers compares the new field trip policy to the nutrition policy. She thinks that Oyster River High School Students are being treated unfairly explaining, “You can go to an R-rated movie but you can’t get a chicken McNugget in the cafeteria.”

Furthermore, Oyster River Junior Colin Lawson feels that the new policy is over the top, “I see what [Superintendent] Colter is thinking but, forcing a bunch of people to miss out on big opportunities because some people may not be able to afford it, is a bit much.”

Mother of four Oyster River Students, Stephanie Ackerman, feels that her children will miss out on education opportunities, “My son Nicholas who is in fourth grade now can’t go to the Museum of Fine Arts or farm field trips, because of the this new [rule]. He was really looking forward to those trips during his last year a Moharimet. Kids are going to be missing out on culture. Also many parents don’t have time to take their kids to these places so it’s really nice to have the school go with them.”

However, too often it comes down to the bottom line and for families that are struggling it could be a good thing for their children. “I feel for those who really are struggling with the economic downfall and maybe couldn’t send their kids on an expensive ‘optional’ field trip. Those trips are technically optional but every student at Oyster River that chooses to be social will feel like they missed out on a lot if they couldn’t go on one of those big trips.”

These “big trips” that Dow refers to, like the trip to Russia and Costa Rica, would still be safe under the new policy. Principal Rogers explained that there are exceptions to the rule. For field trip to exceed the \$10 cap the trip must be planned 4-6 months ahead. In addition, students always



Oyster River High School students on a trip to Costa Rica. This type of trip won’t be jepordized under the new field trip policy. Photo taken by Daniel Olken.

have an option to do fundraising to reduce the amount students have to pay. Many Oyster River students will be affected by the rules regarding field trips and some might not be. Nonetheless, it just goes to show nothing’s safe from the fallout of the recession of the late 2000s.

(S)exeter High School



By Erik Frid

Imagine going to a dance where you are not allowed to grind and teachers have the power to kick you out if they feel you’re being inappropriate. For students at Exeter High School this is a reality. Furthermore, will Oyster River High School be the next to put in place rules restricting certain types of dancing?

What happened?

Usually when angles are used in school it involves math but, for students at Exeter High School the most controversial angles of all involve grinding.

Early last spring the Exeter High School administration canceled the “March Madness” dance because of “inappropriate dancing.” Exeter High School Principal Victor Sokul explained in an email, “What I did was cancel a dance and scheduled a community forum to review our policy and guidelines. Everyone who wanted to was given a chance to speak on both sides of the issue. We took all the info and had a second forum where the new rules were written.”

- These rules that Sokul refers to, are:
- 1. ‘Contact dancing’ is limited to two people.
 - 2. A couple dancing front, both vertical, as in a traditional slow dancing style, is acceptable.
 - 3. Partner (A) shall not straddle any body part of partner (B).
 - 4. A couple dancing back to front [to front] may occur under the following circumstances:
 - a) Both partners dancing in a completely vertical fashion
 - b) No roaming hands, both feet on [the] floor at all times
 - 5. Under no circumstances shall either partner have their hands on the breast area or other inappropriate

areas, of the other partner.”

Exeter Senior Rebecca Podszus elaborated on what Exeter Dances were like before the rules that govern appropriate dancing were put in place, “...girls were literally horizontally against the front of the guy or even lower...it was pretty much considered having sex with clothes on...”

Sokul would completely agree with Podszus’ observation. It is because of this that he attributes the rules that were put in place, “The real reason we had issues,” Sokul explained, “was primarily because of me. I could not watch the students dancing [in a manner] that looked like a sex act. My [chaperones] were having a hard time with it a well.”

These events at Exeter High School spurred a lot of media attention. Exeter Junior Anna Cardoni said that from this the school got a bad reputation and received the nickname “Sexeter.”

How do Exeter students feel about the whole issue? Exeter Senior Colin Peake referred to the past, “I’m pretty sure parents did some pretty interesting stuff back in the day.” He points towards the movie “Grease” as an example, “It’s a lot of sex while dancing.”

Henen believes that the answer to Sokul’s problems with dancing lie in respect between students. “I think that they’re making a [way] too big deal out of the whole thing but I feel like they need to just...get kids to have more respect for each other.” Henen also said that the administration is asking students about their opinion on the whole matter.

Are dancing restrictions in Oyster River’s future?

Students and teachers are split on their views on grinding and “contact dancing” at school dances. Oyster River Senior, Carol Messler weighed the risks of grinding, “People aren’t going to get pregnant,” and fellow Oyster River Senior Prerana Nanda is less concerned with the grinding and more with the moshing that broke someone’s foot at homecoming.

However, Oyster River English Teacher, Trevor Garman, strongly apposes grinding, “I was unimpressed by the way in which some students treated each other while dancing. Both the guys and girls showed both very little honor and class.” He



Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey from the movie “Dirty Dancing” (1987). Photo courtesy of www.alanbaxteronline.com.

doesn’t think that Exeter High School’s rules on dancing are unreasonable for a school setting.

Oyster River Physical Education Teacher John Morin shares the same view with Garman, “Personally it makes me feel uncomfortable because I know everyone in the school. Keep your hands to yourself!”

Oyster River Principal Laura Rogers took the middle ground, “I like ‘sandstorm’ when everyone’s jumping up and down.” She continued, “Grinding is a sexual dance but I don’t think people go over the top with it,” explained Rogers. She expressed that Oyster River’s culture is different than other schools and that inappropriate dancing makes people look tacky and people at Oyster River aren’t into it. In the case of Exeter High School, Rogers believes that because it’s a bigger school it’s harder to connect with kids and tell them to tone down on the inappropriate dancing. When it came to the issue of putting restrictions on dancing at Oyster River Rogers said, “I don’t think we’re going to get there.”



Question of the Month

What is your best childhood memory of trick-or-treating?

By Hannah Lonstein

- “Seeing the Northern Lights.”
- “Being a smurf.”
- “Me and Kyle Milner got attacked by older kids with eggs”
- “Getting pulled in a tractor lawn mower”
- “Trading candy, I would always get a ton of Reeses.”
- “I was a robot and I wore a box on my head that changed my voice when I talked.”
- “My favorite costume was when some friends and I were the Flintstones. We had a car that we stood inside of that we brought around to all the houses. I was Wilma.”
- “My worst memory is a kid stole my whole bag of candy when I was 7 years old. But my brother gave me his bag so that was nice.”
- “My worst memory was I was caught soaping an old ladies window. She came outside and we ran away. We felt so bad after.”



New and Upcoming Movies

By Hannah Lonstein
Michael Jackson’s This is It: The IMAX experience

When: Comes out today! (October 28, 2009) It’s only in theaters for two weeks so get going on buying your tickets!

Summary: You will see behind the scenes of MJ himself and watch him choreograph and rehearse for his concerts.



Disney’s A Christmas Carol

When: November 6, 2009

Summary: The classic Dickens story of “A Christmas Carol” is redefined by Disney. Jim Carrey is the voice of Ebenezer Scrooge who learns to have a better attitude on life by being visited by three ghosts. You can see this lively performance in 3D to make it really come to life before your eyes.

Movie pictures courtesy of Google Images

UPCOMING CONCERTS!

Demi Lovato
October 29
Verizon Wireless Arena
Manchester, NH



Justin Nozuka
November 4
Paradise Rock Club
Boston, MA



Snoop Dog
November 1
House of Blues
Boston, NH



Toby Keith
November 5
The MGM Grand at Foxwoods
Mashantucket, CT

A Fine Frenzy
November 2
Paradise Rock Club
Boston, MA



Rob Thomas
November 7
Mohegan Sun Arena
Uncasville, CT

O.A.R.
November 7
Ryan Center
Kingston, RI



Miley Cyrus
November 9
TD Garden
Boston, MA



The All American Rejects and
Taking Back Sunday
November 10
Showcase Live
Foxboro, MA



Star Wars - In Concert
November 12
Verizon Wireless Arena
Manchester, NH

The Cranberries
Novmeber 14
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom
Hampton, NH

Lynyrd Skynyrd
November 19
Mohegan Sun Arena
Uncasville, CT

Images courtesy of Google.com

17 Again

Ever wonder what your teacher was like at your age? Well, we asked some teachers to revisit their past and tell us what they were like at age seventeen. What did they do, what did



Wendy Gibson at age 17

they wish they had done? If they could do it all over again what would they change?



Samantha Ackerman

Wendy Gibson:

At 17: “I was a Junior at 17, I had a lot of friends. I read, did crew, I was very into the social aspect of school but studied hard. It was very important for me to do well.”

Go back: “I guess if I could

go back, I wouldn’t sweat the small stuff. My 25th high school reunion is coming up and I don’t feel like I have to go- I mean life goes on. Problems you have with friends, boyfriends at the time it seems so incredibly major but looking back you’re like, “dodged a bullet there”!

Barbara Miliken:

At 17: “When I was 17... I was captain of the cheerleading team. I was very responsible and studied a lot. I had a lot of friends and we had fun.”

Go Back: “I can’t tell you that.”



Barbara Miliken at age 17

Heather Healy:

At 17:“I was a senior in high school. I was definitely preppy, I had a hockey boyfriend so I’d wear the hockey letterman jacket. I worked at a shoe store “Artists and Outlet”. I used to go tanning, I was tan year round, and had nice permed hair.

Go back:“I would worry about school more, I did well but I could have done better. I was a good kid, I wouldn’t change a whole lot.”

John Peterson:

At 17: “I didn’t think too much.”

Go back: “I would take life a lot less seriously. You have your whole life ahead of you to worry, take a lit bit to be carefree and young.”

Brian O’Connell

At 17: “Umm... what was I like when I was 17? I played sports, worked a job, had a girlfriend, hung out with friends. I was a normal teenager.”

Go back: “I wouldn’t have had a girlfriend, because it took a high school relationship more seriously. I would have tried to enjoy high school a little more.”



Heather Healy at age 17



Courtesy of Google Images



Teacher Feature: Amy McPhee



By Bridget Regan

Back in the old gym she was teaching a Physical Education class for archery. As she grabbed an arrow, half of the arrow head in lodged itself into her hand. Being the “calm and collec- tive” person Ashley Benuck has described her as, Amy McPhee walked away and had Don Maynard pull out the arrow right there while she hardly even flinched, and then went back to teach her class, as dedicated as ever.

“She has really great outfit coordinating skills... Amazing!” Emily Ricker

Most people know her as the P.E. teacher. Did you know that Amy McPhee grew up on a dairy farm, played women’s ice hockey for the University of New Hampshire, and is the president of the Adam McPhee Memorial Foundation? I didn’t think so.

Born in 1971, McPhee grew up in Epping, New Hampshire. McPhee didn’t quite expect to become a P.E. teacher. She had lived and worked on a dairy farm her whole life, but when the opportunity arose for her to go to UNH, she had to take it. As for becoming a P.E. teacher, “I wanted kids to enjoy school,” said McPhee. “If it wasn’t for athletics, I’m



not too sure I would have made it through school, and that includes college.”

McPhee was an intern right here at Oyster River and then interviewed for a job shortly after. Since then McPhee has been noted as the “leader” in the P.E. department.

“She’s our voice of reason,” said co-worker Imion Powell. “She keeps us on the tight and narrow.”

Besides teaching at OR, McPhee also helped create the Adam McPhee Memo- rial Foundation. Her cousin, Adam McPhee, passed away shortly after he graduated high school. She also is the president of this foundation and helps host a hot air balloon and musical festival every year in September. Adam was the first student to enter Epping High School in the special inclusion program. He passed away shortly after he graduated from high school in 1999. The Adam McPhee foundation was created to fund scholar- ships for people who work with people with special needs and also to assist those who have special needs. For example, the foundation donated about \$1600 to the accessible walk- way at ORHS.



McPhee as a Senior at UNH
Image courtesy of Google.com

“She’s the bomb,” stated Mrs. Milliken. Many students also had the same attitude about their teacher.

Benuck, a former student of hers said, “I really had a great time with Ms. McPhee. Some units that I thought would just be ridiculous turned out to be a lot of fun with her teaching (them).”

“She never has a bad day. She’s always smiling, like sunshine on a cloudy day.” Danuta Richards

As for her future, McPhee looks to teach for about a total of 20 years and then take on a role as a community worker.

“I don’t know any person, male or female, any age, who has a better character or is as honest and has the same kind of integrity,” said Maynard. “I don’t know how else to describe her besides being one of the hardest working people I know.”

So, if you need any advice from her, whether if it’s about your career or if your outfit is coordinated enough, you can always talk to Amy McPhee.

The Stress of College



Samantha Ackerman

Your parents get stressed out over the money, you don’t know what to do in general, and the deadlines are slowly creeping up on you. You have to get teacher recommendations, you have to write an amazing essay and you have to find the perfect college. It felt like you had forever, but as soon as senior year hits this dream of

college becomes a little too real.

College is one the most overwhelming choices you will have to make in life. There is so much that you have to do and trying to find the perfect college isn’t easy. So, where do you start? What’s most important? What’s least important? Is ev- erything equally important? College students at the University of New Hampshire gave MOR their thoughts and advice.

Brittany Welch is now a sophomore at UNH, and she loves it. She said one of the biggest suggestions is to get all the application components done early! “On time is late and early is on time.” So, don’t wait until the last minute to get things done—it’s important to be on top of ev- erything. And don’t be afraid to ask your teachers, they will help you! Welch also said that when you sign up for your college courses, “take a seat and deal with one class at a time,” don’t try to take all of your required courses at once.

One of the biggest fears that people have when they apply to college is the es- say. What should it be about? How long should it be and where should to start in general? Andrew Mitchell, another student at UNH, advises not to worry so much about the essay. “Everybody stresses out about it so much, but just sit down and start writing. It sounds like the worst thing but if you take your time it will turn out well.”

A former Oyster River High School stu- dent Tony Brownell also gave MOR some input on applying to college. “It’s a ton of work,” explains Brownell, “but if you get it done early you don’t have to stress about it later when everyone else is. The essay is easy once you figure out a topic, after that it just comes to you. The hard part is picking the college you want to apply to and then making the final decision.” Applying to college is a long and winding road, so try not to stress out too much at first, and manage your time wisely.

Some students don’t go to college right out of high school, it’s just a question of whether you are ready or not. Rick Hurbaugh is now going into his fifth year of college at UNH, and says that he had expected to be done by now. He explains that you should be prepared to work hard and do well. There’s time to have fun but don’t put the parties first. “I needed to take time off when I was a freshman,” he says. “I was irresponsible and not ready to start learning.” One of the best things about college is the freedom, but don’t overdo it. Don’t go to class hung over, it brings down your GPA.”

College is a huge step in our lives and we need to take the time to make sure ev- erything is done right. But don’t let this ruin your senior year, if you manage your time wisely, you’ll be just fine. So don’t stress the essay, just start writing it and if you need help there are people here at Oyster River that are ready and willing. Getting there is hard, but once you do you’ll realize that all your hard work paid off.



Alexandra Sosnowski stressing out over the Common Application.

If you are looking for help with College here are some places to go!
~ Ask your guidance counselor, they are here to help you! If you have any prob- lems concerning college they will be able to answer all or most of your questions.
~ Every Tuesday and Thursday in the month of October there will be college essay help! Bring your essay (no more than two pages) to the writing center, and a teacher will be there to help you!
~ Ask former Oyster River students for advice on applying to college. They have been through the process less than a year ago so they might have some good advice on how to make things go well.
~ Parents are also a great source of help. They might have been through this process before so they can also help you prepare and sort through things you



Amy Perry and Victoria Hanson overwhelmed with college. They need help!

need to do.
~ You can also go to the College Board website and they walk you through the ways to write a well written essay.



By Anna Reed

Halloween Costume Capers

Remember all those crazy costumes from Halloween as a child? Admit it, at the time you thought dressing up as Baby Bop was a good idea. Whether you were a strange animal, or a classic Halloween character, everyone has a couple skeletons in their closet. Here are some students and teachers with their costume memories:



Mrs. Engstrom

“That year, I was pretty psyched to be a gypsy because it felt very grown-up; I even got to wear make-up! I think you can see the thrill of it just written all over my little face.”



Molly Snelling

“My mom always made my Halloween costumes for me. I remember coming home in black, and my mother started covering me with masking tape, and she made me into a skeleton.”



Emma Congalton

“I wasn’t allowed to dress up as a witch, so I dressed up as animals, and I’ve always liked penguins.”



Mrs. Kucera

“I was a robot. My mom made it out of a cardboard box and my twin sister was a flower. Then one year, my twin sister and I went as grapes. I was red grapes and she was green grapes, and we stuck balloons all over ourselves.”



Mr. Pappas

“There was a costume that was a hand me down from my sister and brother, and it was a full body bunny costume; feet, ears, everything. We had a family friend that went by the name ‘Bunnel’, so I remember asking my parents if I could wear the ‘Bunnel’ costume, instead of ‘Bunny!’”



Mr. Garman

“I don’t remember much about my costumes; Halloween was all about Candy, Candy, Candy!”



Kyle Mitchell

“I dressed in a sumo costume once. People laughed at me when I walked down the streets.”



Mr. Keniston

“I was babysitting a friends kids on Halloween, so I decided to dress up as an old man and follow them around, just to watch over them. I think I creeped them out. They eventually realized it was me.”



Grant Chamberlin

“I once dressed as a Vampire with the pointed bangs, and white face paint. I think I even had the fake plastic fangs, too.”



Brendan Mulhern

“I dressed up as Harry Potter in 5th grade, I had a spray painted broom and the scar and everything.”



By Hannah Lonstein

Are you a Face-book Addict?

You have a paper to write...but it's not due for a couple of days. Do you go home and work on it? Or do you do what 58% of the students at Oyster River High School do—spend endless time doing nothing on Facebook?

Facebook is a flat-out addicting website. Most kids can't go a day without logging on to change their status or look at pictures. But a lot of students use it as a way to procrastinate, as well.

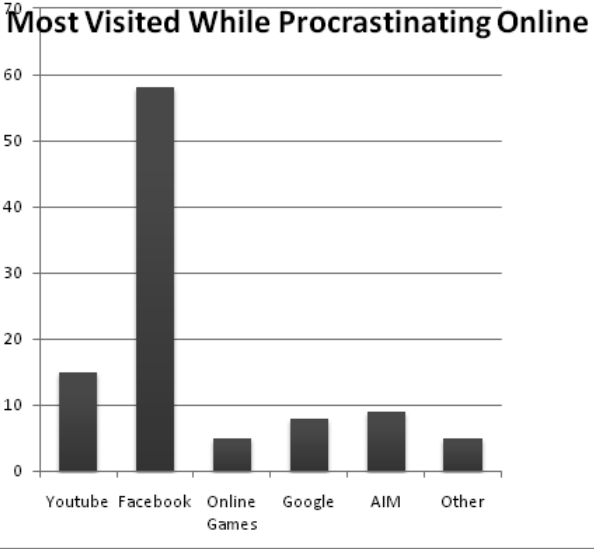
"You get bored doing one thing," says senior Emily Sherry. "You need to take a break and Facebook has so much to do." Facebook does have a variety of addicting activities. You can chat with friends, tag pictures, update your status, and comment on pretty much anything. You can even take innumerable quizzes. Anything from "How common is your full name in the United States?" to "What type of fizzy drink are you?" All of these things



Sara Usher on YouTube when she is supposed to be working on her articles for MOR.

will pass the time quickly and get your mind off the work you need to do. At least for a little while. The second most common online site for procrastination is YouTube. 15% of students polled watch online videos to eat up time. "There are songs on YouTube and also just funny videos. It's a good distraction from doing work," says Junior Lauren Coryea.

YouTube offers movies, TV shows and even instructional videos. Most often however, the quick laugh-out-loud clips are what fuel procrastination, such as "Scarlet takes a tumble" or "Evolution of Dance." YouTube offers movies, TV shows and even instructional videos. Most often however, the quick laugh-out-loud clips are what fuel procrastination, such as "Scarlet takes a tumble" or "Evolution of Dance."



By Hannah Lonstein

10 Questions With Freshmen

So I know you've all been wondering who the little ones in the school are. Well here is your chance to learn a little about three of them.

Cam Flynn

Who would you least want to get in a fight with?

"Nate Fisk"

How tall are you?

"6'0'" (Not including the afro)

Best thing about High School so far?

"Hot upperclassmen"

Biggest Fear?

"Deep Water"

What do you want to be when you grow up?

"Professional baseball player"



Cam Flynn and Resa Meyer

John Meredith

Who would you least want to get in a fight with?

"Anyone bigger than me; which is pretty much everyone."

How tall are you?

"5'1'"

Resa Meyer

Best thing about High School so far?

"Not being surrounded by little people"

Biggest Fear?

"Blood and Spiders"

What do you want to be when you grow up?

"Musician. I sing and play the guitar"

Horoscopes for October

Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Saturn is in favor of you this month. You will find a good looking date to the dance or you will find many good looking people to dance with.

Pisces February 19 – March 20

With New Kids On The Block coming together again, so will you and an old friend. Just like them, this will be better then ever, even more so if you collaborate with Ne-Yo.

Aries March 21 – April 19

Keep and eye out for a job because the Halloween season as put you in a spending mood. With your eyes open you will find a job around the 22nd.

Taurus April 20 – May 20

After a rough night of trick-or-treating, your friend will need some help from you. Stay by their side and make sure to look out for what they eat.

Gemini May 21 – June 20

With your studying skills in tact, you will ace your upcoming math test. Go you!

Cancer June 21 – July 22

You will have a hard month with lots of stress with friends, family and school. Don't worry too much because the words of Miley Cyrus will help you through these rough times.

Leo July 23- August 22

Keep your eyes on your cat because it may wander away when Jupiter and Mars cross paths. But don't you fret, because your cat will return home in about two days time.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Your parents will finally buy you that dog that you've been hoping for. Keep an eye on your homework, Pluto is not too happy with you.

Libra September 23 – October 22

With the leaves changing, your luck will change as well. You'll miss a couple of homework assignments but on the 8th you will catch up and be back on your A game.

Scorpio October 23 – November 21

Mr. Q will eat your homework.

Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

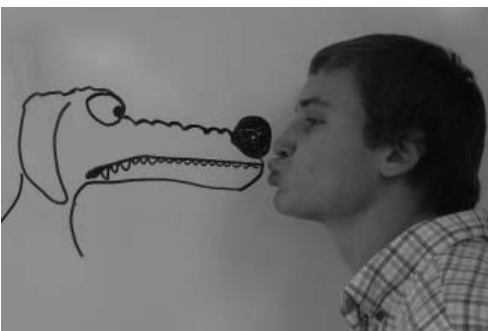
When you head off to the local fairs, a llama will spit in your face.

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

This will not be the best month for you. Lucas Davies will deck you in 4-square at lunch.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF WE HAD OPEN CAMPUS?



As we are now quite a bit into the school year, an issue that pops up every year is coming up again. Will we ever have open campus? Now this means free range to do whatever we want during our free periods/ lunch. This gives people the option to eat the food they want or go home and nap. Other schools have this like Portsmouth and Souhegan. Every year people talk about having this done, but nothing ever happens. This issue starts with talking to our senators. We need to have them bring these ideas up in meetings, and bring it to the administration. So you might be wondering, what would you do if we had open campus?

“I would longboard”
- Allie Harris



“I would climb trees around the UNH campus”
-KC Bornkessel

ADDRESS SENATORS ISSUE



President Chandler Hull



VP Dan Tauriello

“I would meditate”
-Brendan Kotlus



“I would get some beauty sleep”
-Tommy McDonnell

YOUR
ABOUT THIS
TODAY!



“ We would eat dank food downtown.”
- Sonia Ginsburg, Daniela Rossi
and Scott Moreau



President Ethan Hotchkiss

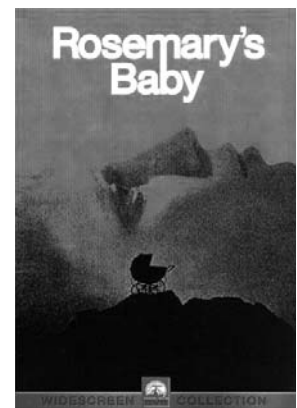
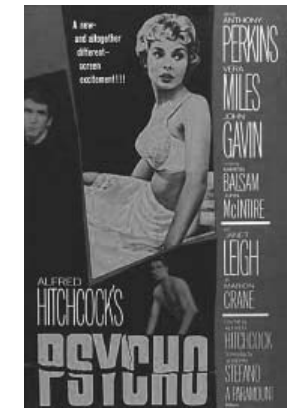


VP Emily Dube

REDRUM! REDRUM!



By Anna Reed



The old front door swings open with a loud creak, and you cautiously step inside the abandoned house. Thunder and lightning crash as the heavy rain streaks down the windows. A black cat scurries by with a hiss and disappears into the darkness. You walk slowly through the house, cautiously looking over your shoulder; all of a sudden, a hand juts out from the darkness and pulls you down. Another hand cups your mouth; no one can hear you scream...

Halloween is right around the corner; Televisions, movie theaters, and media stores are filling with classic and new release horror films. Are you looking for a Jump Out Of Your Seat Thriller? A Blood Bath Hack-and-Slash? Or are you looking for a Kid-Friendly Classic? A survey given to ORHS students revealed what people are craving in their Horror films.

Many Oyster River Students prefer Thrillers. “You got to know what’s coming, but still be afraid when it hits you,” Senior Allen Coq explains as he depicts himself cowering in fear in the senior core. Classics like *Silence of the Lambs*, *Jaws*, and *The Shining* don’t focus on the blood, but they sink deep into your psyche and put you on edge. Many people enjoy being scared, and thrillers will give you that rush without the blood and guts. Media Teacher Kathleen Young loves the classic thrillers. “My favorite was the old *Phantom of the Opera*. It was just so chilling. Call me a bit of a movie snob, but I much prefer the old movies to the new.” New Releases such as *Shutter Island* (Coming in Feb. 2010) and *The Step-Father* (October 16th) are thrillers that will keep you looking over your shoulders for days.

Surprisingly, many students didn’t prefer movies with blood and gore. Movies such as *The Exorcist*, *28 Days Later*, *Drag Me to Hell*, and *Friday the 13th* aren’t afraid to cut some throats or eat some brains. Senior Gabby Brodeur is a zombie enthusiast “I love zombie movies more than life itself. The more over the top they are the better. But I watch too many, and find myself having zombie dreams.” The 6th installment of the *Saw* series (releasing on October 23rd), promises more gruesome deaths that will make your stomach churn.

But not everyone likes scary movies. The survey revealed that half the students questioned didn’t like watching them at all. “I’ve only seen a couple, and I just don’t like them.” explains Junior Danielle Walczak. *It’s the Great Pumpkin*, *Charlie Brown*, *Hocus Pocus*, and *Sleepy Hollow*, and *Halloweentown* are good alternatives for your typical Halloween Fright Night. Guidance Secretary Emily Ricker’s favorite movie to watch around Halloween is *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. “It’s the perfect mix of Halloween and Christmas, both of which are my favorite holidays.” Movies like October 9th’s *Zombieland*, and October 23rd’s *Cirque Du Freak: The Vampire’s Assistant* promise to make you laugh more than cringe.

So whether you’re searching for blood, or just a good laugh, there is something out there for everyone. Don’t just rely on the season’s new releases either, venture through your local library or video rental store for Halloween classics. You will be surprised with what’s out there.



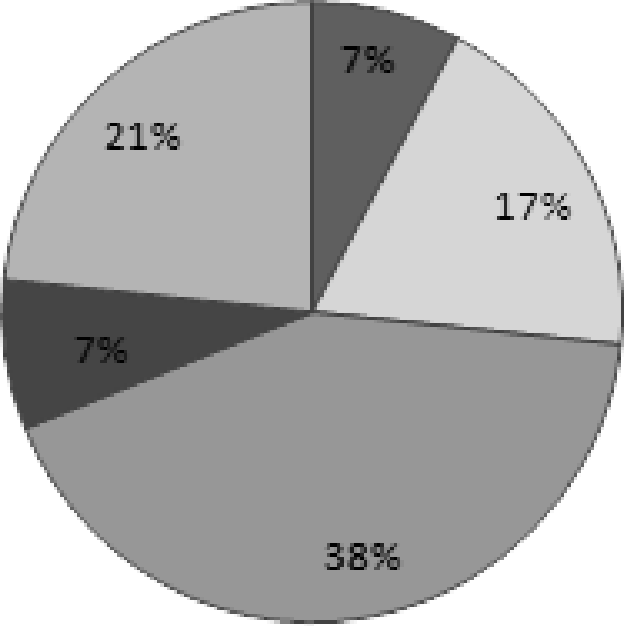
Seniors Loren Couse and Kristen Silverman cringe as they watch a scary flick in the core.

Need a rental? Check out these Classics!

- Jaws (1975)
Rosemary’s baby (1968)
Frankenstein (1931)
The Exorcist (1973)
Psycho (1960)
Friday the 13th (1980)
Halloween (1978)
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974)
- The Omen (1976)
Se7en (1995)
Poltergeist (1982)
Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)
Saw (2004)
Alien(1979)



What ORHS students look for in a Scary Movie



- 7% Blood/Gore
- 17% Original Idea
- 38% Suspense
- 7% Realistic
- 21% Thought-out character and plot

Peace...Out



By Donovan Kelley

This could sound awful, but it is quite necessary. The peace sign has to go. Don’t get me wrong, I am in no way against peace. I am strongly against the meaning of the peace sign in our society today. There is a large difference between doing peaceful acts and sporting a peace sign. The peace sign has basically become Oyster River’s favorite symbol. Everyone is sporting peace apparel whether they believe in the meaning or not. People like the idea of looking like a peaceful person, even if they aren’t that peaceful. When it comes down to it, we need to get our priorities straight, and realize what we are doing before we rock it.

I have asked several people what their definition of peace is. Daniela Rossi, a senior had an interesting take on it. “People think of peace as the absence of war, but I personally think there is more to it.” I also believe that there is more to it. Peace doesn’t have to mean ‘no war’ all the time. It can mean that, but that is not peace’s only definition. “It can also be described as equality, justice and happiness within oneself” finishes Rossi. That is an interesting idea; peace within yourself. Now this has nothing to do with war, or violence. Peace within you can come in many different ways. Brendan Kotlus likes to think of peace within him as meditating. He expresses peace through meditation, usually on his own time. He doesn’t express peace by wearing a large peace sign shirt with a peace sign headband and peace sign necklace. He expresses it without having to get attention for it, the way it should be.

Now it’s funny, I asked our Principal and Superintendant to give me their personal definition of peace. One word that came up in both of their explanations was the word

‘respect’. This brings up a wonderful idea. You would think that we would want a good amount of respect between our students and teachers right? Well this isn’t really the case. So by their definition there isn’t peace between students and faculty. I thought about it, and it’s true. I feel disrespected with the



Decked out in peace apparel at Bindy’s Boutique



installment of cameras. We are being constantly watched, and are now treated like criminals. How am I supposed to respect someone that thinks of me that way? With these harsh actions, I find it safe to say that teachers are the ones diminishing peace between students and faculty.

Often times I wonder, is peace something that should have a price? I came to the conclusion that whether it’s on a bag or even dealing with a war you can’t have a price for peace. It is something that needs to be represented without digging into your pocket. Personally, I believe that a sweat shirt with a peace sign on the front that costs \$39.00 is absolutely absurd. Not because it is a poorly made sweatshirt, but the fact that it defeats the purpose of peace. A peaceful place isn’t a place that is obsessed with making money. When people started rocking the peace sign, they didn’t pay \$100 for a bag with it slapped on the side. Most of these ‘ticky tacky things’ we see with peace signs on them, have a good possibility of being made in a sweat shop. That does not sound like peace, to me that sounds like greed. People don’t realize they are being taken advantage of. These companies pick a common idea that will attract attention. They know that making a peace sign shirt with flowers and sparkles on it will sell. That’s why I say forget that commercialized peace nonsense, go out and make your own peace sign. Show your love for peace without having a factory do it for you.

“The peace sign has become an accessory, like the watch” said Bindy Curtis owner of Bindy’s Boutique, an awesome clothing store in downtown Durham. Watches used to be mainly for telling time, now often times they are worn purely for fashion. Now we have cell phones, blackberries or iPods that can tell us what time it is, so why do we need to wear something else to tell us that. That is the same idea as the peace sign. “People wear it to look cool instead of promoting a good idea” Bindy stated. When it comes down to it, people need to think about what they wear and if they really believe in it. Wearing something because it is ‘in’ is not a reason to wear it. If you believe in peace that’s fine, but also keep in mind where the product you are sporting comes from. In the end people will do what they want, and wear what they want. If it looks cool and other people are doing it, people will wear it, regardless if they know the meaning or not.



By Hannah Allen

Jay Walkers Beware

“You can always tell who the new freshmen are at UNH,” Judy Kucera, an English Teacher at Oyster River High School says. Students at the University of New Hampshire carelessly walk across the streets of Down Town Durham without a worry in the world. They are unaware of the fact that there is no crosswalk under their feet, and that cars are slamming on their brakes as students pop out from in-between parked cars onto the street.

Jay-Walking is a problem in almost every town and city, and although it is against the law, how many people actually get in trouble? I believe that everyone is guilty of jay-walking at some point in their life time, because sometimes it just feels so inconvenient to walk the 50 extra feet to the next crosswalk. Although I am guilty of crossing the street without being in a crosswalk, I do consider myself a conscious jay-walker, unlike many of the UNH students I see walking through town.

“I don’t think the average person notices how dangerous it is,” explains Jess Gangwer, the owner of Town and Campus on Main Street in Durham. Gangwer has been a business owner in Durham for years, and has always been scared of the amount of students who cross the street without even looking first. “It’s scary at night, the students walk in dark clothes all the time,” Gangwer continues. He admits that he has been guilty of jay-walking, but also adds that whenever he crosses the street, whether in a crosswalk or not, he always waves to the driver.

The biggest hot spot for jay-walking in Durham is from the sidewalk in front of JP’s to the crosswalk in front of Pauly’s Pocket. “There should be another crosswalk where the old one was,” explains Tina Young. Doing a little investigating I found out that the crosswalk there was taken out because a young girl had been hit there. The turn from Mill Road onto Main Street was too hectic already, and drivers didn’t pay attention, or even notice the crosswalk. But wouldn’t a crosswalk really make it less dangerous? People are crossing the street anyways, so shouldn’t there be a crosswalk that will make the cars at least consider stopping for pedestrians?

Laura Dow, a Senior at Oyster River was crossing the street in Dover to go to an appointment with her mom last November. There were no crosswalks that would have been easily accessible for her mom, so they crossed the street without using the crosswalk. Dow thought that she had made eye-contact with a male driver who was stopped at a stop sign, but apparently the guy was not paying attention and hit Dow and her mom. Dow was able to go home later that day after being checked at the hospital; her mother however suffered a broken femur and was going to have to undergo surgery. Now, almost a year later, she is still not fully recovered and often feels tremendous pain in her legs. “I’ve learned not to trust people in cars coming towards me,” Dow explains. Although she cannot say that she has totally changed her ways of jay-walking, she has become much more aware of her surroundings. She also explains that she doesn’t always mind jay-walkers, as long as they don’t shoot out from between parked cars, and they are sure to wave or at least smile when she stops for them.

Walking to a Wildcat Transit bus stop in Portsmouth, my classmates and I stopped before crossing the cross walk, and waited, waited, and waited. Four cars flew past us while we clearly were waiting to cross the street. As guilty as walkers are for not always using crosswalks, drivers are just as guilty for not stopping. Whether it is that they don’t care that someone is waiting to cross, or they just are oblivious to pedestrians all together, the issue lies between both the drivers and the pedestrians.

So walkers, use a crosswalk. Stop before crossing, wait for the driver to stop, and remember to always wave. Drivers, be cautious of the pedestrians around you. If someone is patiently waiting to cross the street at a crosswalk, stop, it’s not that hard. And if someone happens to be on crutches, using a walker or in a wheel chair, be courteous and let them cross even if they aren’t in a crosswalk.

“I’ve learned not to trust people in cars coming towards me”
-Laura Dow





By Timmy Short

A Letter from the Editor: The Shawshank Proposal

Can you believe they put in cameras? *Cameras?* All over the school, looking down every hallway, seeing everything. Let me ask you this: what took them so long?

While everyone else is whining and complaining about the new addition, I couldn’t be happier, because I see these cameras for what they really are—wonderful. I simply cannot fathom all this talk about overstepping boundaries and invading privacy when studies clearly show that students perform better in environments in which they feel imprisoned. It has been proven time and time again, by scientists and sociologists alike; that students feel more relaxed and motivated to learn when they feel like their every move is being watched. There is a direct link between high test scores and students’ personal lack of freedom. Fantastic, huh?

As a matter of fact, I think it’s so fantastic that I am proposing a new plan made up of seven stages. It will help lead our school down the path that the cameras began. I call it “The Shawshank Proposal.”

1. **Metal Detectors:** Our school may be located in a wealthy, rural area, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t employ city school methods. Metal detectors will absolutely give Oyster River a more intimidating feel. Also, several police officers will man each entrance and search every other student.
2. **Drug Dogs:** These are not the mutts that the cops bring in every once in a while. The Shawshank Proposal calls for trained bloodhounds wandering freely within the school at all times. Upon detecting drugs, the dogs are trained to bark wildly. Should this fail to get the attention of the school resource officer, only then will the dogs become violent.
3. **Collars:** Under The Shawshank Proposal, every student will be required to wear a collar around his or her neck displaying their name, age, grade, and truancy record. This would be a low-cost yet highly effective method of tracking students. Further expansion on this possibility would include installation of an electric fence and also the pricier option of embedding microchips into the collars to monitor the entry, exit and current location of any student at any particular time.
4. **Dungeons:** Unfortunately, Mrs. Wotton’s office is not really intimidating enough to dissuade troublemakers from becoming repeat offenders. That’s why The Shawshank Proposal aims for slightly more extreme conditions for those wrongdoers. I suggest we blow small holes through the floor sporadically throughout the school and dig trenches roughly 10 feet deep. Rule breakers will be thrown into the pits and chained to the floor in various uncomfortable positions. Ideally, they will also be deprived of food and water while their fellow students taunt them from above.
5. **Minefield:** One of the main obstacles our school faces today is the issue of students leaving school grounds during the day. The Shawshank Proposal calls for the installation of a minefield for roughly one hundred yards in all directions around the building to prevent insubordinate students from escaping. Once the school day has officially begun the minefield will be activated. Only the most reckless will be willing to brave the terrain and only the luckiest will be able to overcome it.
6. **Walls:** Beyond the minefield, encircling the school grounds, a twelve-foot high, five-foot thick, barbed wire crowned concrete wall will be built. There will be guard towers located atop the wall at periodic intervals—each containing a well-trained U.S. Marine. The plan also includes a minimal number of gatehouses at designated checkpoints, such as the bus entry and exit. These areas will feature a higher concentration of guards.
7. **Laser Turrets:** On the roof of the school several robotically commanded laser turrets will be built and positioned. This will strongly minimize the possibility of students trying anything rash while still providing a formidable consequence incase they do. The turrets will possess the ability to detect motion, rotate, lock on, and fire high-powered bolts of laser energy at their targets. This is the final and most costly component of The Shawshank Proposal but should be within financial reach simply by cutting the girl’s softball team.

“Students perform better in environments in which they feel imprisoned.”

All together, The Shawshank Proposal would only cost about 6.3 billion dollars, not including the roughly \$15,000 already spent on the cameras. Who cares if we don’t have drawing pencils in the art department? Or if the roof leaks? Or if we can’t afford laptops with actual keys? The important thing is that we bring our fist down on the issue of tardiness, truancy and the occasional misplacement of an iPod shuffle.

So let’s all fight for the Shawshank Proposal. Let’s make this school feel even more like a penal colony. Next time you see Mrs. Rogers address her as “the warden”. If possible, wear wife beaters or striped clothing. Hell, get obnoxious tattoos all over your body. Any contribution is appreciated.

Oh, and one more thing! “Oyster River High School” is so yesterday. I say we change the name to “Shawshank Penitentiary.” It’s got a nice ring to it, huh?



The view from Mrs. Rogers’ office computer includes almost every hallway in school. Here, Mouth of the River staff members Donovan Kelley and Josh Park show the camera how they feel on the first floor of the tower.



By Timmy Short

Not So Fast

Attention seniors! You are being played, hoodwinked, bamboozled! I know you’re all graduation-crazed. But why don’t we take a step back for a moment so I can let you in on a little secret: college can wait.

Yes, you heard me correctly. In 12 months many of us will be enrolled in universities. And that means only 4 more years until we have to deal with taxes, rent, and 9-5 jobs. Don’t you want to take a break from learning for a little while? After all, most of us have been going through these same motions for over a decade.

So here’s an idea: put college off.

Why not take a gap year? Why not go explore or volunteer for a while after graduation? You could study turtles in the Galapagos Islands. Or teach English in Uganda. Or work at an orphanage in London.

“I’ve considered [a gap year] because there are some things I would like to experience in my life, says senior Prerana Nanda. “And I figured it might be hard to get those in after college.”

Imagine going to a remote and isolated village in Africa to teach physical education to young children who’s high point of the day is playing soccer with you. Gap years offer us an opportunity to do something great—a rarity for most 18-year-olds.

“I think any experience you have before entering the workplace is going to prove valuable down the road,” says Mrs. Healy, an economics teacher at ORHS. “Not only is a gap year a resume builder but it’s personally rewarding as well.”

Tuesday, November 17th the Third Annual Gap Year Fair will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. The following programs will be represented:

- American Red Cross
- A Safe Place
- Bridgton Academy
- Center for INTERIM Programs
- City Year
- CIEE Gap Year Program
- Dynamy Internship Year
- Global Vision International
- Habitat for Humanity
- Lexia Study Abroad Programs
- LifeWise Community Projects
- Northfield Mount Hermon School
- Sexual Assault Support Services



This massive binder in the guidance room features dozens of gap year opportunities and can be viewed by studetns at any time.

Overheards

“Are you really checking how thick I am?” ~Robert Sack

“Yesterday I got two new balls.” ~Mr. (OC) O’Connell

“You’ve got to have a sister like mine to get some.” ~Dylan Strogen

“I’m pretty raunchy.” ~Mrs. Kucera

“So he was just yanking on it?” ~Brendan Kotlus

“If you show me yours I’ll show you mine.” ~Tommy Duvall

“A million years ago or so North America and Asia were grinding.” ~Mr. Bromley

“Hazing is fun. Sometimes it’s just fun to get hazed.” ~Becca Sasso

“What is the probability that I will smack you over the head?” ~Mr. Whalen

“Hey Charlie can I take a look at your balls real quick?” ~Alyssa Johnson



A Letter From The Editor: The End Is Near



By Hannah Allen

Driving to school in my all blue outfit, whistles, horns, beads and glasses, I realized how weird it was that I was finally able to dress in our true school color for spirit week. As a freshman, spirit week was scary and intimidating. The third floor was filled with lost freshmen dressed in green, and we were all terrified of what was to come later that day. Walking through the cores was petrifying, and I tried my hardest to avoid them all week. The railings in the stairwell were streaked with blue and black paint so the underclassmen would awkwardly get their hands covered in it.

Now I dress in blue for class color day. I sit with my friends on the opposite side of the bleachers as the freshmen in the gym. We are the ones yelling the loudest and having the best time. We are no longer intimidated by the upper-classmen; we are the upper-classmen.

As a freshman, it seemed as though the 2007 seniors were so old. Even now looking at them I feel like they were so ready for college, and ready to be on their own. The class of 2008 didn't seem as old to me, this may have been because of the fact that I was one year older too, but they just didn't seem all that mature and ready to venture into the real world. Last year's graduates seemed way too young to even be seniors, let alone graduate from high school. And now, I look at myself, my friends and my classmates—how in the world are we going to be ready to go off to college in just a few months? Seniors aren't getting any younger, but I wonder if we are as prepared as the seniors from ten years ago.

People always say that high school will go by fast, and before you know it you'll be graduating, but coming into high school I didn't believe that. I thought that I would dread going to school every morning, and be counting down the days until I was out of here. Somehow I am already starting my senior year, and in just a short amount of time I will be getting my diploma and turning my tassel.

Although I can't wait to be done with high school, I'm excited for the memories this year has yet to bring us all and I know that I am going to miss these past few years. We have all shared so many memories whether they were funny, sad, awkward or bad. Whether we want to admit it or not, we have all grown together and learned so much from each other. When it comes time for our class reunions, it will be so amazing and interesting to see us all together again.

I'm excited for what the rest of this year will bring, I know it will bring many more amazing memories for our class to remember forever. The Halloween Dance, Championship Games, Senior Skip Days, Sadies, Senior Pranks, Follies, Prom and Graduation all are waiting for us to embark upon. So Seniors, let's get through these next months in good spirits, because pretty soon we'll be free.



Senior girls celebrating finally being dressed in blue for class color day



Seniors jumping in center court during the pep-rally



The 2010 class at their freshmen pep rally

Here are just a few silly (and awkward) memories that I know I will never forget from high school...

- The fire alarm going off during our freshmen Halloween dance, and having to wait outside for about fifteen minutes in the cold until the firefighters checked the school to make sure nothing was actually wrong. Apparently the fog machine set it off..
- The pep-rally our sophomore year, Alyssa Johnson getting her chest grabbed by Connor Clark when he accidentally slipped while pushing her on the scooter. Also, Gabby Brodeur tearing her knee apart during dizzy bat in the gym.
- Mike Farkas getting ran over by the mobile lab freshmen year and tearing his Achilles tendon while Kai Schidlovsky helped him push it to a classroom.
- Kyle Milner getting an ISS for “stripping” on the table in the café.
- A quail getting let loose in the junior core our sophomore year (senior prank)
- Pages of porn magazines getting ripped out and left all over the hallways (another senior prank)
- Iesha Crotty tackling Georgia Borner in front of everyone outside during the field day
- Charging at the freshmen, and having them be terrified and run in any direction they could possibly run in...

The Rants: Dances and the Lunchroom



By: Donovan Kelley

When I was a freshman my brother, Blair Kelley, had an article titled ‘The Rants’ every issue. I am here to bring it back. He brought up some very questionable aspects about Oyster River, I will be doing the same for the next year . This article I will be sharing my opinion about why our dances suck and why we need to change just about everything in our lunchroom.

Dances: There are many problems with our dances today. In fact, our dances are just pitiful. Some of the problems can be easily fixed, like actually dancing at a dance. The fact that we still bump ‘Sandstorm’ at our dances is just depressing. I mean



People not dancing.

there is nothing that makes me angrier than a bunch of sweaty idiots jumping up and down; landing on my ankles to techno. Others will take time, like actually going to more than two dances. When I was in 8th grade, there was nothing more exciting than a dance. Now that I am in high school, people really only go to two dances. The homecoming dance and the Halloween dance. You can’t really count prom as a dance. That is really under the title of colossal waste of money for dress up.

When I arrived on the scene of homecoming 2009, not a single person was dancing. There had to have been 100 people there, standing with their arms folded socializing. That is honestly pathetic people; we need to do something about this. “People just need to stop being so awkward and dance, I honestly don’t get it” said senior Cody



Seniors enjoying their lunches in the cafeteria.

Mills, king of the dance floor. If you are going to just stand around and be extremely awkward, please, do not come. You are just a serious waste of everyone’s time, go socialize somewhere else, and leave the dance floor open to people who will actually dance. Honestly though, is it really that hard to dance? People now get awkwardly laughed at if they are dancing without a partner. I can remember multiple times at the most recent dance, where I was dancing without a girl and I got laughed at. Maybe it’s just me, but I think people are starting to miss the point of a dance. I understand that the music isn’t always the best, but that doesn’t mean you can’t dance to it.

The other issue is the fact that no one goes to dances anymore. If it was up to me I would go to every dance, but people don’t do that for some reason. People need to ignore the fact that certain dances are put on by different classes. If people enjoy dancing at homecoming why can’t we have the same fun at a Christmas dance? If we want people to come to dances, all we need to do is lower the price for each dance. People

don’t come because they don’t want to pay the money. Seven dollars is far too much for a dance. That is absurd; I would rather bump beats out of someone’s car in senior lot and dance to that. I understand there are things we need to pay for, but what about finding cheaper ways to do them. We don’t need all of the crazy lights, sure they are cool but we can lose some of them. I know half the time they are on; I try not to look at them because they hurt my eyes. We can also have a student DJ, instead of having someone come in and charge us lots of money. Regardless, dances need to change, and if we don’t try to change them, pretty soon no one will be going to any of the dances.

My next complaint is something else that is probably annoying everyone else. Guys; stop being sketch. I love dancing, and mingling at dances, but I am not sketch. Guys use dances as opportunities to molest girls. Please, if you don’t have game outside of a dance, do not use this as an excuse to awkwardly grab girls. I don’t mind getting into the dancing, but when I see a guy going to second base on the dance floor, I get weirded out. This goes hand in hand with couples on the dance floor. People, stop making out at dances, it’s so disgusting. There has been multiple times where I have thought about leaving, because I was surrounded by couples kissing. I speak for everyone else when I say, get a room.

The Food: Does anyone else find it weird how they are obsessed with making a profit off of us? Why is it necessary for them to keep jacking the prices of food up? I can understand if the food is expensive but actually good. The price of a regular lunch now is \$2.50. Now I would gladly pay a little extra, if they hook it up. “At Coe- Brown we pay five dollars for a privately catered, delicious lunch” Says Skyler Speed, a student at Coe-Brown. Now plenty of people eat more than one lunch. Two sandwiches are very filling for most guys. So if that is the situation, you end up spending five dollars without any sides. There are people who are forced with the option of eating school lunch. They go through quite a bit of money in one week alone by just buying a regular meal. The food we are served is not worth its price.

The other issue that needs to be brought up is the fact that the food isn’t what it used to be. Whatever happened to the days when we had chicken fajitas, gooey chocolate cookies and dank ice cream cookie sandwiches? Now we can buy crusty cookies, grilled chicken sandwiches and fajitas without the delicious chicken. What’s next? Are they going to take away build a burger day and replace them with some other poor substitute? “At Coe-Brown, we have amazing desserts to buy after every meal,” says Speed.

There is something very ridiculous in our lunchroom that is driving me crazy. If you go downtown, you can get a 23.5 ounce tall can of Arizona Iced Tea for only \$.99. If you go into our cafeteria, you can get a 20 ounce bottle for \$1.50. Am I missing something here? They can’t actually be serious with this. “This is an outrage, I want to be able to drink my Arizona for the right price!” says senior Ryan Randall, looking in at the drink fridge in the cafeteria.

Please don’t waste my time with healthy food. I know what is good for me and what isn’t. I want to eat delicious food, even if it isn’t that great for me. I’m almost 18 years old; I don’t need someone telling me what to eat. I know that obesity is a problem, and people say that we need to serve healthier food to help this issue. Those people need to take a good look around; obesity is still an issue even with healthy food. If you are obese, I’m sorry but that’s not my problem. I want to be able to eat tasty food, not grade D meat. “I don’t care for the food at our school; it’s not very good for you. A lot of other people seem to enjoy it though” says Joan Carroll, a student at Saint Thomas Aquinas. So please, load my plate up with some tasty grub so I can enjoy my lunchtime.

Below I have listed some options for new lunch ideas.

Buffalo Chicken Quesadillas – The quesadillas we are served now are garbage. For some reason they are combining pizza with an enchilada and calling it a quesadilla. Why not get some good tortillas and load them up with delicious cheese, hot sauce and chicken?

Baby Back Ribs – There is nothing better than a delicious southern meal. Now wouldn’t ribs, cornbread, beans and coleslaw sound delicious?

Cheeseburger Subs – This would be very easy, you could use the toppings they provide for build a burger outside too. Having this along with spicy waffle fries would make one diesel lunch.

Ice Cream Sundaes – Now does it annoy anyone else that we don’t have good desserts? I don’t care if its lunch, I would absolutely buy an ice cream sundae if they provided it, so would many other people.



John DeTurk takes a diesel bite out of a bistro burger.

Teams Spirited



By Caitlin Olson

Every team, every season has at least one team spirit that really brings the team together and makes the team stand out during the school day. So far this year both the boys and girls soccer teams have has brilliant team spirit ideas along with cross country and field hockey. So what have they done you may wonder, well here's a recap. So far the best team spirits that have come along this season was the bathrobe display by the boys and the faked injury by the girls. Other spirit ideas have been the tourist approach where the boys' team wore Hawaiian T-shirts along with socks and mandals (man sandals) and the girls had the whole team wear hats. The Hawaiian shirt and mandals may seem like a foolish idea but teammates disagree, "By making everyone look like a fool it brings everyone together" explains Jake Bayer. The ideas for the teams spirits are talked about and discussed during spags (team spaghetti dinners) throughout the season, one of the most creative team spirits was the sleeveless and fake tattoo spirit done by the boys' team because of the verity of the art work. But there are downfalls to team spirits, "The bathrobe idea was a hit," explains Jake Bayer, "but because of that, we now have to run all spirit ideas through our coach." Some of the teammates that day displayed a little bit too much skin while trying to entertain the crowd that they were among during the school day. In

“By making everyone look like a fool it brings everyone together” explains Jake Bayer.



Seniors Kara Pavlidis and Alyssa Johnson express their excitment for their big game day

the end when you and your team are thinking of ideas for team spirit remember to think outside the box and don't copy and other team's idea, be sure to be noticeable and out there. Don't be afraid to push the limits on what you think the school can handle; with a good team spirit comes good supportive fans.



Senior Sean Leahy, Junior Jake Bayer and Sophomore Brogan O'Rourke group together to have a photo taken of them in their devilishly handsome bathrobes.



To the left: Seniors Johnny O'Brien and Donovan Kelley diplaying the hawaiian t-shirt and socks with sandals for team steez (spirit, style) for boys varsity soccer.



To the right: Senior Carol Messler showing off her super comfy footie pajamas for girls varsity soccer team spirit.



Senior Donovan Kelley showing off his steazy (stylish) mustache and shades for a home game against Kingswood.



Athlete of the Month:
September



by Gabby Brodeur



Kara Pavlidis, Girl's Varsity Soccer

An avid soccer player from a young age, Pavlidis dominates the field with the girl's soccer team. During the off season, Pavlidis plays indoor soccer with a group from Dover.

Sports hero?

Back in the day I looked up to Mia Hamm a lot. I don't really have one anymore though. I like to focus on myself and try not to be like someone else.

Favorite sports memory?
Winning states in 2007.

Least favorite sports memory?

Missing my breakaway goal in the finals game in 07... I always watch it on tape and wish I could go back.

Biggest goal for the season?

Making it past the first round of playoffs. We lost to Souhegan last year. I definitely think we can go all the way this year.

Pre game rituals?

A lot of focusing. Then when starters get onto the field, we chant our soccer team theme song.

Gatorade or Powerade?
GATORADE ALL THE WAY!



Athlete of the Month:
October



Brogan O'Rourke, Boy's Varsity Soccer

As one of the few underclassmen on the team, O'Rourke seems at home on the Varsity field. This year will mark his 11th season of soccer, no small feat. In the off season Brogan also skis competitively, a skill he has had since he was 2.

Sports hero?

Bodie Miller, I always wanted to ski like him, or Clint Dempsey was another player that I looked up to.

Favorite sports memory?
Definitely be beating Coe-Brown in the last minute of the second over time, I felt our team just put everything we had out on the field.

Least favorite sports memory?
Losing to Saint Thomas in the first game, I thought that we out played them most of the game.

Biggest goal for the season?
To win states this year, but besides that is to stay consistent in every game and give everything I have every game.

Pre game rituals?
I do a few jogs do some stretching stuff like that, but the one thing I do every game that never changes is taking about thirty seconds by myself and just think about the game, and what I need to do as an individual to play my best.

Gatorade or Powerade?
Always go Gatorade.



B.O.N.G (Ballin Outdoor Nature Game)



By Josh Park

Freshmen refer to it as “the circle of death”; some call it “the ring of fire”; however, upperclassmen know it by its true name: B.O.N.G (or Ballin Outdoor Nature Game). In B.O.N.G., participants stand in a circle and attempt to juggle the ball amongst them. On the fourth hit—if the group manages to keep it off the ground for that long—players try to catch the ball and peg others. Simply put, B.O.N.G. is juggling dodge ball.

The popularity of B.O.N.G is undeniable. It is played at lunch, sporting events, and pretty much anytime a ball is available. Games during lunch grow fairly large, averaging anywhere from 15-20 kids at a time. “It’s fun and exciting,” says sophomore Tom Gehling. “Everyone loves juggling and throwing balls at each other.”



A group of kids going after the ball

Even those who don’t regularly participate have very few negative things to say about B.O.N.G. “I don’t play it often but it’s fun when I do,” says junior Kyle Scarano. “I don’t know I guess juggling balls in itself is pretty sweet.” Lately however, the game has come under fire due to its “hazing” nature and freshmen have been forbidden to play with the juniors and seniors. In recent weeks, the parents of younger students have been calling the school questioning whether their kids should be playing with upperclassmen. Due to these concerns, B.O.N.G. has been banned outright.

“I’m okay with the game as long as it’s with kids in the same grade level,” says Principal Laura Rogers. “But there is too much negativity when underclassmen are involved.”

It is true that when freshmen played they tended to be targeted more often. However, some freshmen have no problem with the way things are. “It’s fun and competitive,” says freshman Connor Leander. “I don’t see it as very negative and I think it should be up to the upperclassmen whether we play or not.”

The administration, on the other hand, wasn’t quite so fond of B.O.N.G. Mr. O’Connell wondered why people even played the game. “It’s stupid, a waste of time and you sweat a lot. High schoolers don’t need recess.”

But students refuse to back down. “I like throwing the ball at kids. It gets rid of frustration,” says senior Zach Wasserman.

Even Librarian Wally Keniston believes that B.O.N.G. has its benefits. “It’s an active and energetic game that helps relieve stress by using physical energy,” he says. “I don’t mind the [aggressive] aspect. It adds an element of surprise.”

His only complaint? “I wish there were more letters. Because the game only involves 4 letters, the round tends to end quickly. I wish there was a seven or ten letter word instead.”

Senior Becca Sasso thinks the ban of B.O.N.G is attributed to the violent aspect of the game but also the name itself. Perhaps the administration would rethink the ban if B.O.N.G. were called “H.A.R.M.L.E.S.S.” instead.



Senior Ryan Randall throwing the ball at Freshman Seamus Clancy



Senior Cody Mills throwing the ball at Senior Alex Curtis

Rollins “Fat as Ever”



By Josh Park



Oyster River 2009 graduate Ben Rollins is already making headlines at Suffolk College. With four goals in five games it’s easy to see why. Rollins lettered three times for soccer during his time at Oyster River and was even called up as a freshman. He has definitely left some lasting impressions on current and former players. Nate Drogseth, a senior, played with Rollins as a junior and notes his ability to perform in the clutch. “I remember playing St. Thomas at home,” says Drogseth. “It was his first game [back] from being injured and he scored two goals.”

Tommy Lynch, a former Bobcat soccer star, remarks on Rollins’ reliability, “He’s a reliable finisher. You feel comfortable knowing he’s going to put at least [one] goal in when he’s on the field.”

As a senior captain, Rollins helped lead the Bobcats to the state semifinals before barely being edged by four-time champion Hanover in overtime shootouts.

However, his soccer career continues to extend beyond high school. After playing for the Seacoast United Club Team he was recruited to play at Suffolk College, a division III school in Boston. So far, things are going well for Rollins...

Why did you pick Suffolk College?
I picked Suffolk because it was in Boston and I could play soccer there.

What other colleges were you looking at?
I was also looking at UVM, UNH, UMaine, Merrimack, BU and Quinnapiac.

How do you compare it to playing high school soccer? Pros/Cons?
I have about half the amount of time as I did in high school (to play the ball). Pros: I’m getting a lot better and the level is higher. Cons: I don’t get to play with the kids I grew up with.

How well do you think Oyster River prepared you to play at the college level?
Oyster River has allowed me to play at a relatively high level and it’s definitely helped me in playing college soccer.

Do you still play the same position?
Right now I’m playing right outside/ right forward, so pretty much the same position.

How big of a time commitment is it?
It’s a huge time commitment and I’m spending at least 5 hours a day traveling to soccer and playing.

Are you staying at Suffolk or looking to transfer?
I’m not really sure if I’m going to stay or not. I don’t really like our coaches’ style but I might stick it out to stay in Boston.



Ben Rollins chest trapping the soccer ball.
Picture from: gosufflokramps.com

Leadership on the Court



By Caitlin Olson

The ball slams to the ground while the buzzer for the end of the game rings; your team has lost the game. The feeling of defeat and frustration floods the court; as the leader how do you make this turnout not so bad? When you think of senior year, you think of bonding with your class through special experiences such as sports and afterschool activities. But what happens when you're the only one of "your kind" and there is no one like you to bond with? What if you are the oldest and have to step up to the plate in leadership and set a good example for the rest to come? Do you think you could handle that? Michelle Hobbs certainly shows she can.

Being the only senior on the girls volleyball team this season sets up quite a task for Michelle Hobbs; leading the team. Even though the team is young, it doesn't seem so young with the environment set by Hobbs, "It really isn't that hard being the only senior because our team is really well bonded. We don't see each other as a senior or a junior or anything like that, so although I'm older and have played for one more year on the team, I don't think that makes it any harder for me being the only senior," Explains Hobbs.

Hobbs is perceived as a supportive all around player. "Part of being a good leader is growing as a player, leading by example and adapting your leadership skills to styles that you may not be accustomed to" Explains Coach Dan Brodeur, "Michelle is a leader on the court. After a play, she and the other girls come together and briefly talk about what they need to improve or what's working and get ready for the next play."

Teammate Junior Chelsea Graham feels that Hobbs is part of the team even as a leader, "Whether it's getting everybody pumped for the upcoming game, or giving spectacular advice on how to defeat our opponents over a few lost points, she keeps her patience and makes sure everything goes smoothly," Hobbs seems to be on top of the ball when it comes to being on the court, but can she handle the heat of being the one and only leader?

Juggling a hard senior schedule that includes pre-calculus and two science classes along with a hefty babysitting part time job and volunteering at her church you'd think that'd be enough. Not for her, she is even able to have two sports under her belt this year; Volleyball and Lacrosse. Being captain of Varsity Volleyball requires organization, hard work and concentration, "She's very organized and on the court she's always giving helpful tips to try and help them whole team," explains Junior Leah Janelle. Hard work and concentration are only part of the job though. Being heard and approachable is a must have as well. "She is a very good leader. Being a captain you need to make sure your presence is known and that you can be approachable if a problem arises," explains Graham "Michelle fits that category completely, she could fix a problem before it arises, and keep the team at peace, however, we are such a close knit team, she doesn't have to worry about too many problems affecting the team."

In order to be able to be a leader you have to have some kind of backup, Hobbs finds her safety among family and friends, "My parents have always supported me playing," Hobbs explains "I remember when I first told my mom I wanted to play she told me to go right ahead, and has come

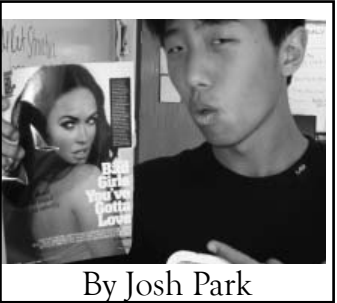
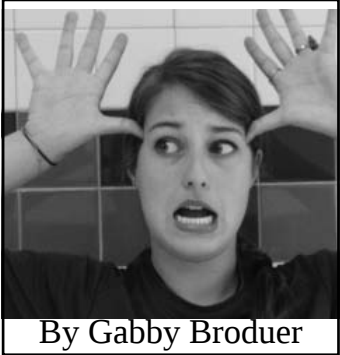
to almost every one of my games since. Even my brother and sister get into it. They both come to games and even have their own shirts that have a number seven and my name on the back."

With all the circumstances, how do you think the team has been faring lately? So far, so good would be on way of describing the undefeated season. "We've been doing really well this year considering the amount of seniors we lost last year" explains Hobbs.

In the end having just one senior isn't so bad, not as strange as it may seem. "She is such a good player that she will leave shoes on the team that another player is going to have a hard time to fill," says Graham. Hobbs makes it seem that it must not be so bad being alone at the top. So far the team is tied for first with Hollis-Brookline and they at thinking of heading for finals so come and show your support for the team by attending games.



Fall Sports Recap



Field Hockey

This year’s Field Hockey team lost a good player last year, but they haven’t given up yet. They’re fighting for a spot in the finals and for the rest of the season to go well, “If we can get our act together we can go the rest of the season undefeated” Emma Smith Explains.
Record to date 10/22/09/09: 7-8
Rival: Portsmouth and St. Thomas
Predictions: Finals

Volleyball Women

In the past girls varsity had a good run for the finals but this year they’re going to try to take it all the way. Having a hard week ahead of them playing Portsmouth, Milford and Gilford they stepped it up on Monday September 28 when they defeated arch rivals Portsmouth. “I was completely breathless when we won,” exclaims Michelle Hobbs.
Record to date 10/22/09/09: 12-3
Rival: Portsmouth and Gilford
Predictions: Final Four



Volleyball Men

This year on the volleyball team, bonding has been a big improvement since last year, “Team chemistry is a lot better this year since last year,” explains Zach WastRasmus. The team’s season has gotten off to a rocky start but predictions are that the team will improve over the season.
Record to date 10/22/09/09: 6-10
Rival: Timberlane
Predictions: Semi-Finals



Boys Soccer

The Boys’ Soccer team has been turning things around. After tough losses against St. Thomas, Coe Brown, and Bow they have had six straight wins. Sophomore Brogan O’Rourke says, “I feel like we came off to a rough start but we’re starting to get better and we’re starting to play like a team. We have a lot more to improve on but if we keep working hard we have a chance at winning the state championship.”
Record to date 10/22/09: 10-5
Rivals: St. Thomas, Coe Brown, Hanover
Predictions: State Championship



Girls Soccer

The Girls’ Soccer team is on a roll. Currently in first place with nine wins there is no looking back. Senior Alyssa Johnson says, “The seniors are really stepping it up and the freshman are adapting to the play quickly. The team as whole is really motivated and wants nothing but a state championship.”
Record to date 10/22/09: 12-3
Rivals: Portsmouth, St. Thomas
Predictions: State Championship.



Cross Country

The girls cross country team have quite a legacy to live up to. With the history of several state titles, everyone has their eye on these runners. With only two new additions this year, the team seems to have some good experience under their belt. “We have a lot of potential. We have a long way to go but I think we can accomplish anything we want,” said senior captain Kylee Drugan-Eppich. Though they’ve only had a few races so far, the ladies have proved they are on their way up, closing the distance between the leaders in Class I, Coe Brown. They hope to place in the top 3 at Class I, on Halloween and perhaps even move onto New England’s.
Boys cross country seemingly gets bigger every year. There never seems to be a shortage of strange little freshman boys running around the multi purpose room, preparing for a speed workout. “Boys cross country is clearly a very dedicated team. As a whole they seem to get better every year,” commented Athletic Director Don Maynard. “They work as hard as all the other teams, yet their efforts go unnoticed most of the time, it’s really too bad.” John Morin had a little less to say on the topic: “Boy can they run.” Fantastic input. Overall, the boys seem to have a strong team this year, but we can only hope they’ll keep their shirts on for the next couple weeks.

Golf

The golf team is looking the best it has in a long time. With 5 seniors, they have been destroying their competition. Their current record is 22-4. “We’re really consistent and we don’t have any bad players, which is sick.” Commented senior golfer extraordinaire Scotty Mulligan. Scotty agrees that though the competition is stiff, our boys know how to handle the ball. They hope to conquer Bedford, who only has one loss, in the Class I match on October 1st.

